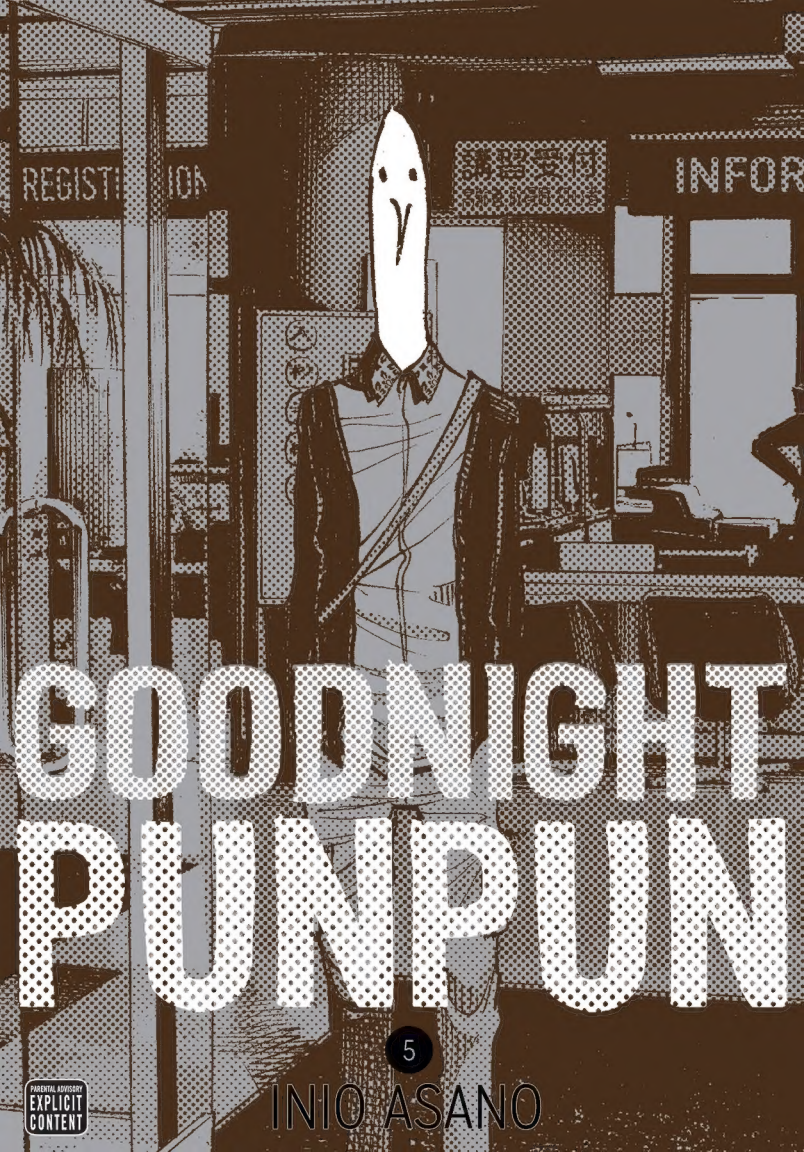
GOODNIGHT
PUNPUN
5
INIO ASANO
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

5

Story and Art by INIO ASANO

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Part Nine

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STORY THUS FAR...

After fondling, squeezing, inserting and coming, Punpun Onodera turns into a twisted hit-it and quit-it dick. More than friends and less than lovers, Punpun and Sachi's wishy-washy relationship continues as they finish their manga.

That January, they crab walk to a publisher with their manga.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

PUNPUN ONODERA
A one-night stand of little consequence. Freelancer. Twenty years old.

SACHI NANJO
A tough-seeming aspiring cartoonist. Tutor at a cram school. Twenty-four years old.

YUKINOSHIN MIMURA
A dashing young man. College student.

MIYUKI KANIE
Slightly chubby star sign. Went to high school with Sachi. Married.

HEIROKU SHISHIDO
Old man. Runs Shishido Real Estate.

MASUMI SEKI
Apathetic young man with a mistaken understanding of freedom.

SHIMIZU
An unusual young man who has yet to wake from his dream. College student.

TOSHIKI
A fairy who has taken up residence in town.

PAOPAO CHANNEL
A 42-year-old Internet addict with a Lolita complex.

ECO BAG
A pesticide-free female chauvinist. A visiting professor at a local university.

WHITE PIG
Shop assistant. She's 155 pounds of magic.

IT'S AWKWARD WHEN YOU ONLY HAVE ONE BATTERY LEFT
It's awkward when you only have one battery left.

INFINITE ♡ LOVE
Has a degree in sports and possesses a quick Vassallo kick.

BUTT HAMBURGER
Silly woman aspiring to be a voice actress. Has an anime voice.

GUARDIAN ANGEL GIBOBOGIGI
Middle-aged woman incapable of picking up on social cues. Mother of two.

CONTRARY TO...
Meet you nice to, Baby. Deliveryman.

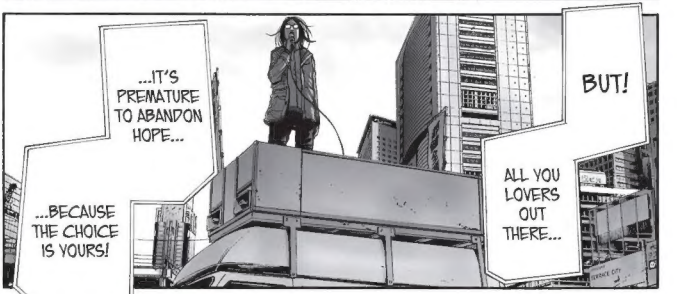
PRINCESS PUSSY (HIROMI NUMATA)
Sexy girl unsure of her future. College student.

BIG BRO MOFUMOFU SWEET PRETTY LONELY HEART (WADA)
A math guy who loves absolutes. He and Toshiki were classmates. Tutor at a cram school.

AIKO TANAKA

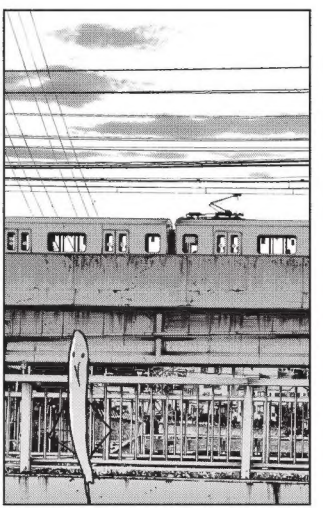
Chapter 90

CAN YOU HEAR THAT?
THE UNIVERSE IS CRYING.
IN SIX MONTHS...
...THE EARTH WILL CEASE TO EXIST.


...IT'S PREMATURE TO ABANDON HOPE...
...BECAUSE THE CHOICE IS YOURS!
BUT!
ALL YOU LOVERS OUT THERE...

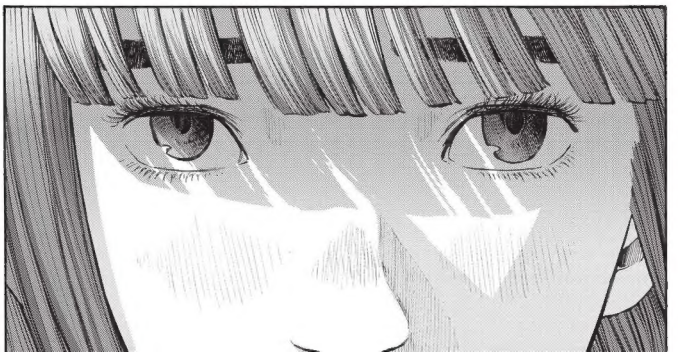
...THE BEGINNING OF A NEW WORLD, TOGETHER.
LET'S TOAST...

GOOD, GOOD, GOOD
...
...
GOOD VIBRA-TIONS!!

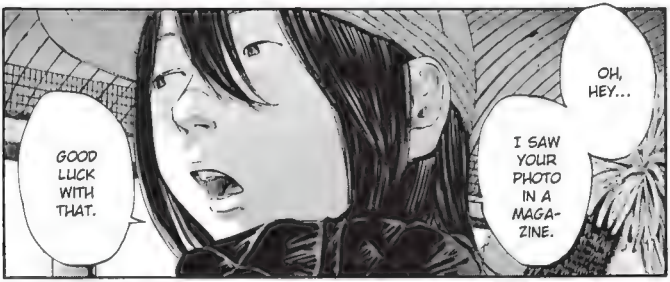


AND SELL!
HAPPY!
OFAP
DAYS 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM
ENDS 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
AIKO TANAKA ...
OPEN 10AM TO 11PM
24
QUICK MASSAGE
6F
REFRESHI
B1・1F FOOD COURTS
OPEN 24 HOUR
OPEN 10AM TO 11PM
HIND AND IGNORED
... RIGHT?

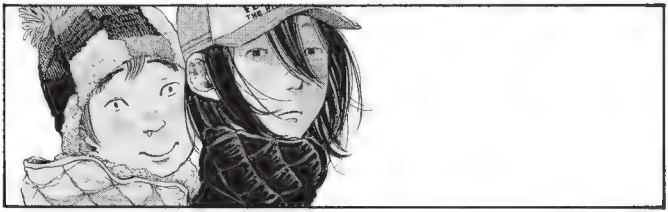
ELEVATOR
ESCALATOR



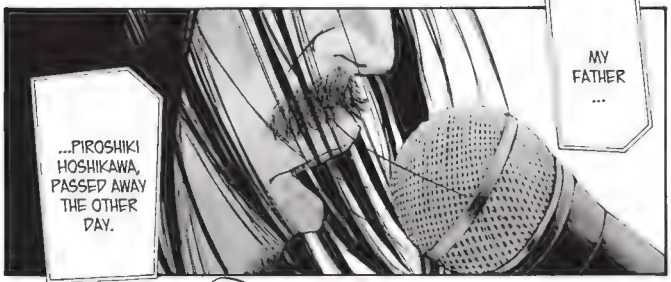
MARINE LINE
ARE YOU GOING TO A FUNERAL?
SORRY, I'M IN A HURRY.


OH, HEY...
I SAW YOUR PHOTO IN A MAGA-ZINE.
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.

I THINK YOU HAVE THE WRONG PERSON.



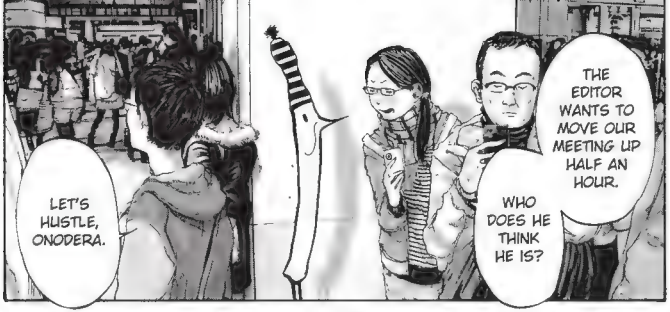
WOW, SHE WAS SUPER UN-FRIENDLY.
CITY CALL CENTER

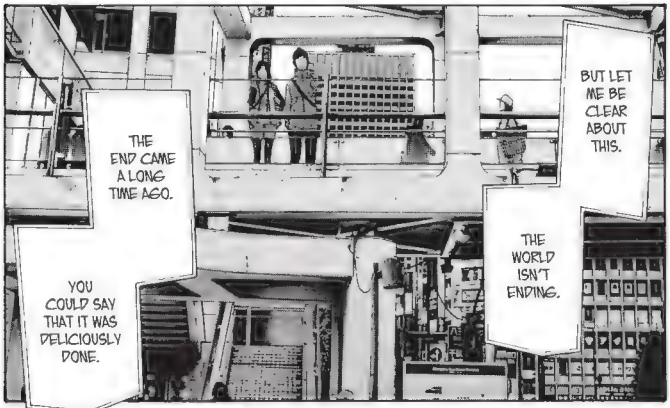

MY FATHER ...
...PIROSHIKI HOSHIKAWA, PASSED AWAY THE OTHER DAY.

YES, HELLO...
NO, NO. WE'RE STILL IN SHINJUKU.

DISTURBANCES IN THE VIBRATIONS CREATE CHAIN REACTIONS THAT BECOME DISCORDANT NOTES...
...AND BRING FORTH GREAT HOPELESSNESS.

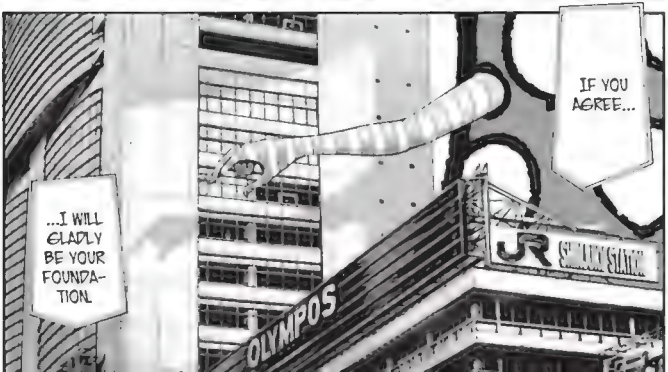
SHUT UP, YOU BUM! PAY SOME TAXES!
YOU, OVER THERE ...
OOOH, SCARY.
I LOVE YOU TO BITS.


LET'S HUSTLE, ONODERA.
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?
THE EDITOR WANTS TO MOVE OUR MEETING UP HALF AN HOUR.


THE END CAME A LONG TIME AGO.
YOU COULD SAY THAT IT WAS DELICIOUSLY DONE.
BUT LET ME BE CLEAR ABOUT THIS.
THE WORLD ISN'T ENDING.

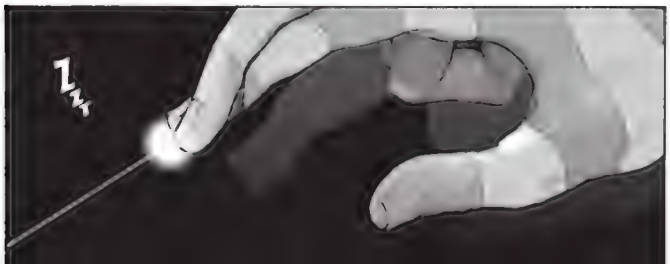
LET'S DISCARD ALL THIS AND CREATE A NEW WORLD FULL OF RAW HOPE!
BUT ALL YOU LOVERS OUT THERE...
...DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF THE HOPE WITHIN YOU.

YOU CAN DO IT!


IF YOU AGREE...
...I WILL GLADLY BE YOUR FOUNDATION.
OLYMPOS

...TAUGHT THAT GOD IS NOT A SINGLE ENTITY. GOD LIVES IN EACH OF US, IN VARIOUS GUISES.
BUT I WANT TO TELL YOU TODAY...
...AND THIS IS EMBARRASSING FOR ME TO SAY...

I AM GOD.
GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE!

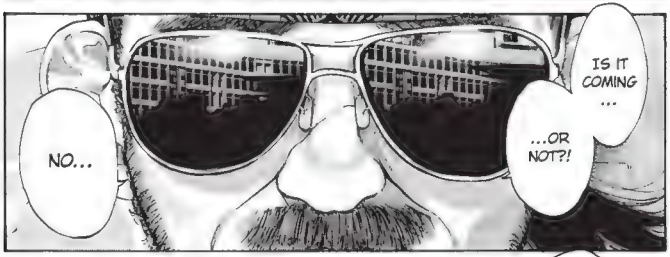


JR SHINJUKU
LIMONE
HAPPY NEW YEAR BARGAIN
1.1~1.7
お申し込みはコチラから!
NO HEALTH REFORM

SHINJUKU
HAPPY NEW YEAR

SHINJUKU
GOOD NIGHT
HAPPY NEW YEAR BARGAIN
NO HEALTH REFORM
PUN PUN

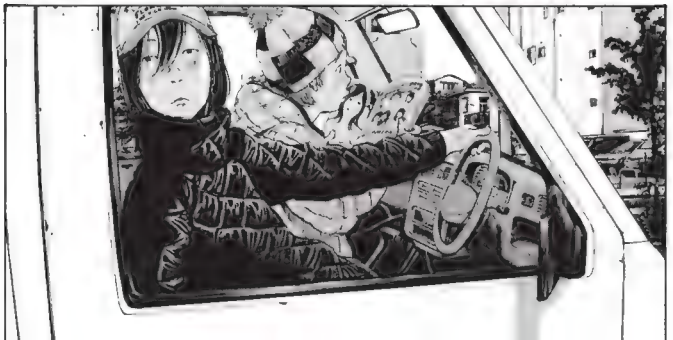
9
INIO
ASANO


NO...
IS IT COMING ...
...OR NOT?!

720m
Tokyo Metropolitan Government
新宿警察署
Shinjuku Police Sta.
500m
IT'S...
... ALREADY STARTED!

THE FESTIVAL HAS BEGUN!

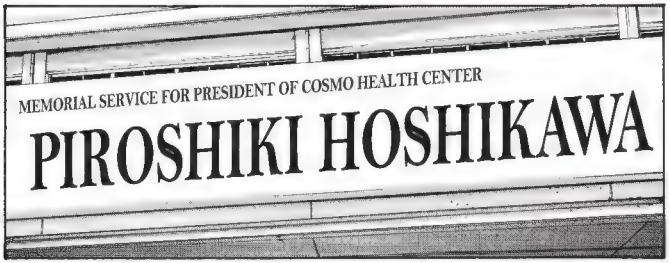
IT'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE.
YEAH, HERE IT IS.



FINALISTS
THAT'S HER...
WHO WILL WIN THE GRAND PRIZE?
RIGHT?

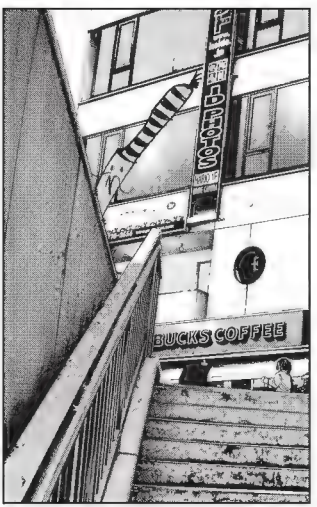
SHE'S SO BAD AT FAKE SMILING.
AIKO TANAKA (19)

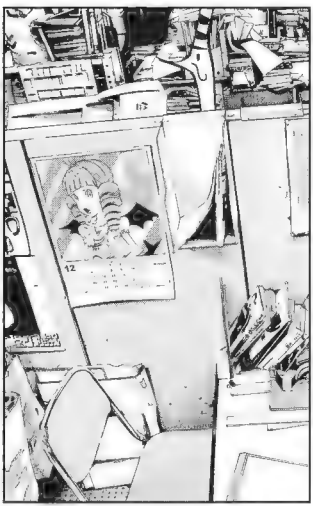
SEEMS LIKE SHE'S GOT A LOT GOING ON.
MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PRESIDENT OF COSMO HEALTH CENTER
PIROSHIKI HOSHIKAWA

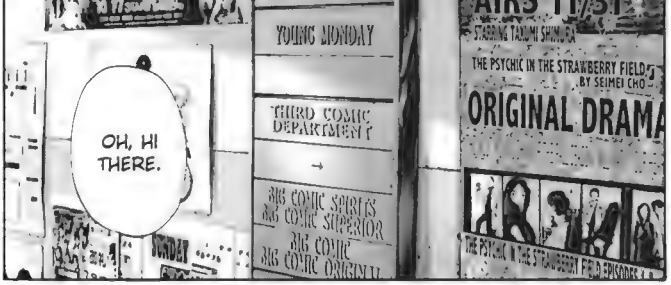

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PRESIDENT OF COSMO HEALTH CENTER
PIROSHIKI HOSHIKAWA

LEAVE ALL THE TALKING TO ME. YOU JUST REMEMBER TO BREATHE.
NO NEED TO BE NERVOUS.
OKAY, PUNPUN ...

WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME, YOU PRICK?!
I'VE NEVER BEEN NERVOUS BEFORE A MEETING!
SIGH.
OKAY ...
...LET'S GO.
EVERYTHING YOU NEED
TO START
AT CHARLIE


BUCKS COFFEE

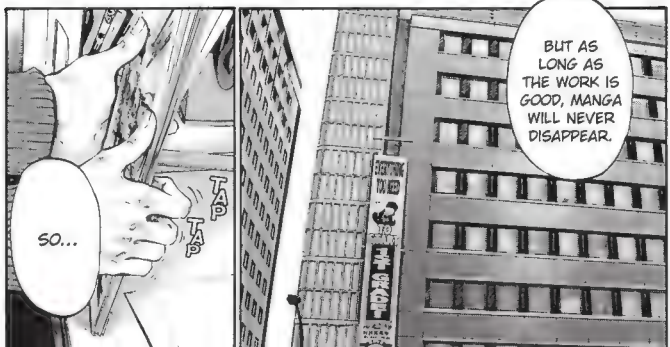



OH, HI THERE.
YOUNG MONDAY
THIRD COMIC DEPARTMENT
→
BIG COMIC SPIRITS
BIG COMIC SUPERIOR
BIG COMIC
BIG COMIC ORIGINAL
AIRS 11/31
STARRING TADUMI SHIMURA
THE PSYCHIC IN THE STRAWBERRY FIELD
BY SEIMEI CHO
ORIGINAL DRAMA

THANKS FOR COMING IN.
WAIT FOR ME IN THAT CUBICLE, OKAY?

THEY'VE BEEN SAYING FOR A WHILE THAT PUBLISHING IS IN A SLUMP.

AND I WON'T DENY THAT CONTENT WITH AN EDGE ON MANGA IN TERMS OF ENTERTAINMENT VALUE HAS RECENTLY INCREASED.
地下鉄 神保町駅
20m Jinbocho Subway Sta.


SO...
TAP
TAP
BUT AS LONG AS THE WORK IS GOOD, MANGA WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR.

YOUR ART AND LAYOUT ARE SOLID, AS ALWAYS.
I THINK IT'S GOOD, SACHI.
THE TWO OF YOU COLLABO-RATED ON THIS?
Volume
On sale now
UM, YES. WELL, HE WROTE THE STORY.
BUT...
...THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT INTERESTING.
THAT HASN'T CHANGED EITHER.
Volume
On sale now
OH, WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK?
SAMURAI
ON SALE NOW

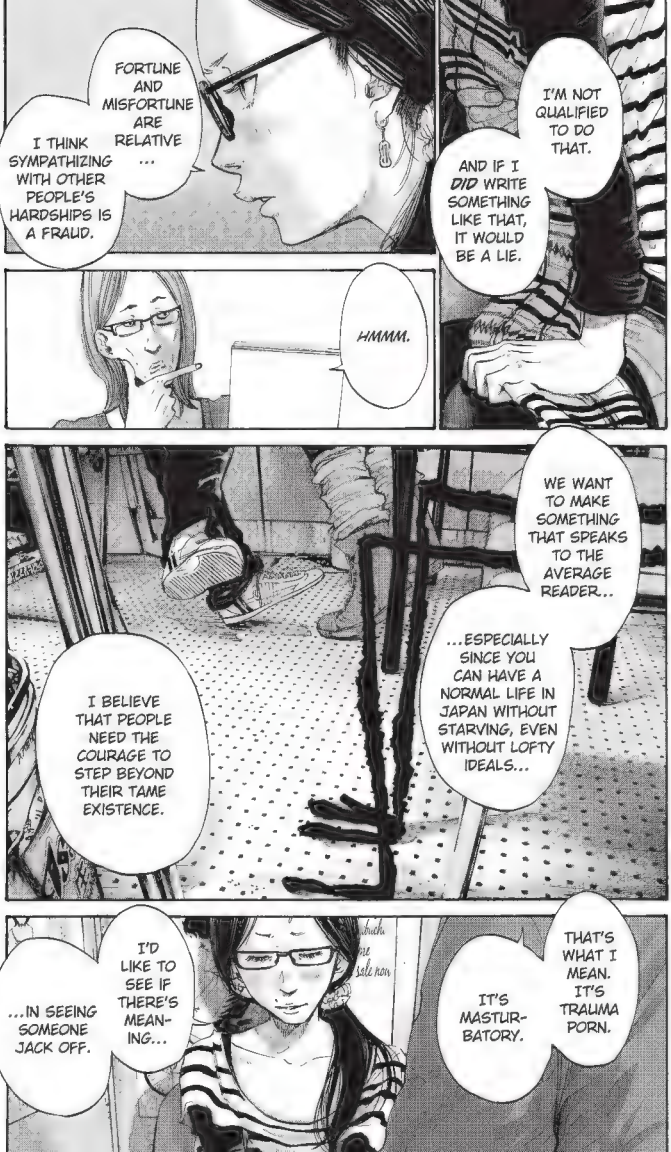
OH...
HI THERE, MR. FUKAZAWA.
YOUR ONE-SHOT WAS GREAT.
15

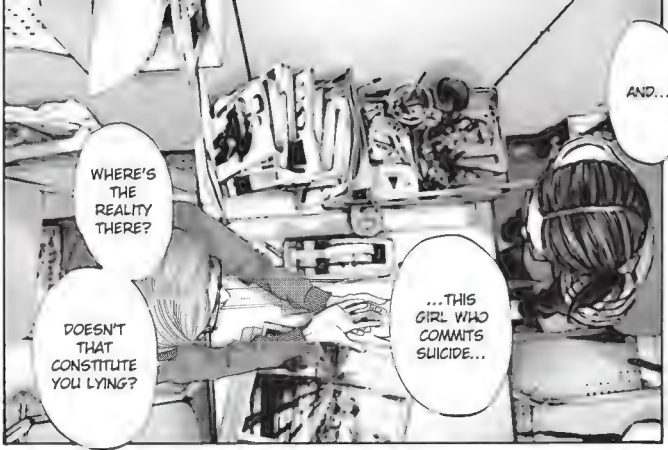
ARE YOU A FAN OF MR. FUKAZAWA, SACHI?

JUST BETWEEN US...
...HIS BOOKS SELL OKAY, BUT NOT WELL ENOUGH TO PUT HIM IN THE MAGAZINE ...
HE'S PUSHING THE STYLE, BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO IT.
YOU KNOW, SUB-CULTURE OR MORE LIKE SUB-CULTURE-ISH...

...THAT MEANS THERE'S A READERSHIP FOR THAT KIND OF STORY, RIGHT?
BUT...
EVEN IF THERE IS...
WE DON'T NEED TWO AUTHORS LIKE THAT.
SO, YOUR PIECE, "SHOOTING STAR AT NOON"...
THE HERO, AN ORDINARY FREELANCER, MOVES TO TOKYO AND SEES HIS HIGH SCHOOL CLASSMATE AGAIN AFTER SEVERAL YEARS.
OH, HELLO ...
IT'S ABOUT THE DIALOGUE ON PAGE 16, PANEL THREE...
DAYS LATER, HE LEARNS THAT SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE. IN A WORLD THAT NEVER CHANGES, HE BEGINS TO MOVE FORWARD...
THE HERO IS COMPLETELY SELF-ABSORBED AND COMPLETELY UNINTERESTING.

IF YOU ASK ME, ANY PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED IN YOUR TWENTIES CAN USUALLY BE SOLVED BY THE APPLICATION OF A LITTLE HARD WORK.
EVEN FAILING IS GOOD FOR YOU! JUST MAKING THE EFFORT IS A BOOST TO YOUR SELF-CONFIDENCE AND WILL HELP YOU IN THE LONG RUN.
THIS JUST SEEMS LIKE WALLOWING IN ANGST TO ME.
BRAGGING ABOUT YOUR ADVERSITY IS ANNOYING.
IT MAKES ME WANT TO SAY, "GET A GRIP!"
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD MORE UNFORTUNATE THAN THIS GUY...
PEOPLE WITH ILLNESSES AND DISABILITIES.
SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS...
...FOCUS ON THOSE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE...
...AND CREATE A STORY THAT MOVES READERS?


I'M NOT QUALIFIED TO DO THAT.
AND IF I DID WRITE SOMETHING LIKE THAT, IT WOULD BE A LIE.
HMMM.
FORTUNE AND MISFORTUNE ARE RELATIVE ...
I THINK SYMPATHIZING WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S HARDSHIPS IS A FRAUD.
WE WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING THAT SPEAKS TO THE AVERAGE READER...
...ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU CAN HAVE A NORMAL LIFE IN JAPAN WITHOUT STARVING, EVEN WITHOUT LOFTY IDEALS...
I BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE NEED THE COURAGE TO STEP BEYOND THEIR TAME EXISTENCE.
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN. IT'S TRAUMA PORN.
IT'S MASTUR-BATORY.
I'D LIKE TO SEE IF THERE'S MEAN-ING...
...IN SEEING SOMEONE JACK OFF.


AND...
...THIS GIRL WHO COMMITS SUICIDE...
WHERE'S THE REALITY THERE?
DOESN'T THAT CONSTITUTE YOU LYING?

SO...
...IF I HANG MYSELF RIGHT NOW, WOULD YOU CONSIDER MY MANGA TO BE GOOD?

IT'S BLEAK OUT THERE, AND READERS WANT SOMETHING POSITIVE WITH EASY-TO-DIGEST COMPASSION.
IT'S...
...AN ABSOLUTE REQUIRE-MENT THAT A MANGA HAS TO BE ENTERTAIN-ING.
WELL, THAT ESCALATED QUICKLY.
IF THAT'S WHAT THEY FIND ENTERTAINING, DOESN'T THAT MAKE THEM IDIOTS?
LET'S GET BACK ON TOPIC.
EVEN IF YOU THINK IT'S WARPED, BEING FULLY YOURSELF UNTIL THE MOMENT YOU DIE...
I THINK THAT'S REAL DIGNITY, AND I DON'T CARE IF IT'S SELF-SERVING.
WHAT WE NEED ARE SPECIFIC VALUES THAT TRANSLATE TO REAL LIFE.
BEING MOVED FOR AN INSTANT DOESN'T FUNDA-MENTALLY CHANGE ANYTHING.
CALM DOWN, SACHI...
YOU SEEM VERY AGITATED.
...FOR BEING TOO ARROGANT.
THESE DAYS AN AUTHOR GETS REJECTED ...

WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING AGAINST?
ME?
THE READER?
SOCIETY ITSELF?
PLEASE SPARE ME THE OLD CHESTNUT THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY FIGHTING YOURSELF.

WITH A HALF-ASSED PHILOSOPHY LIKE THAT, YOU LEAVE YOURSELF OPEN TO ATTACK FROM ALL SIDES.

I'M NOT SAYING IT'S NECESSARILY BAD FOR AN AUTHOR TO SPEW THEIR EMOTIONS.
WELL ...
I'LL SUBMIT THIS FOR THE NEWCOMER CHALLENGE.
MAKE THE MESSAGE CLEARER.
BUT...
...HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN YOU.
...MOST PEOPLE, MORE THAN YOU EVEN THINK...
WE'RE CHANGING IT TO "I WANT TO SNIFFY SNIFF HER LITTLE SLIT."
...THE DIALOGUE "I WANT TO SNIFF HER SLIT."
YES, PAGE 16, PANEL THREE...

SLAM
UMM.
I'M GOING TO CHANGE ...
...MY TAMPON!

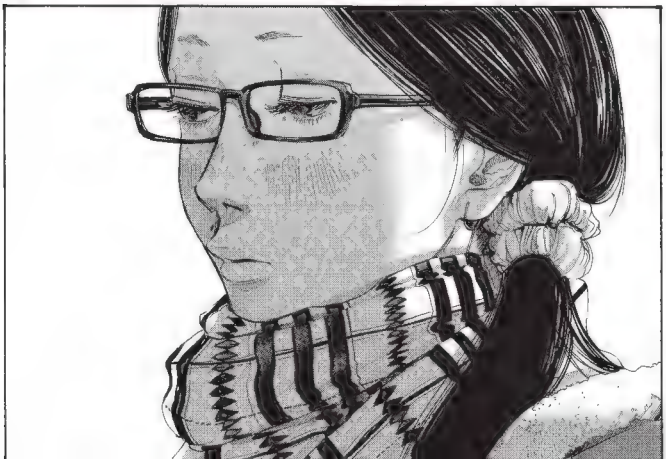
...ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH HER?
PUNPUN ...
SHE USED TO BE A LOT MORE RATIONAL.
UH
NUH

I DON'T MIND IF YOU ARE.
REALLY?
SAMURAI

DO YOU WANT TO GET SOMETHING TO EAT?

A HOT POT WOULD BE NICE.
HOW ABOUT ORGAN MEAT? YEAH...
I'M TAKING YOU OUT.

"You're a genius, Sachi. You'll be fine."



AAARGH!!

DON'T SAY ANY-THING...
...FOR A WHILE.

I JUST NEED TO DO IT...
JUST DO IT.

KLAKA
KLAKA
KLAKA
KLAKA

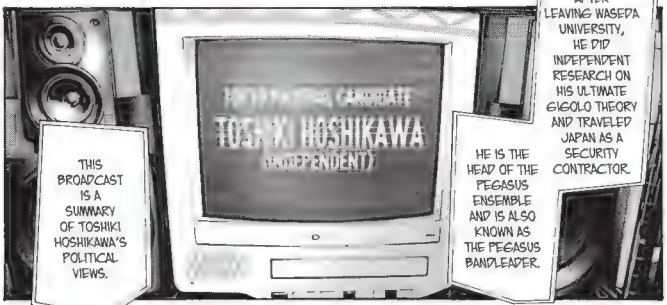
Chapter 92

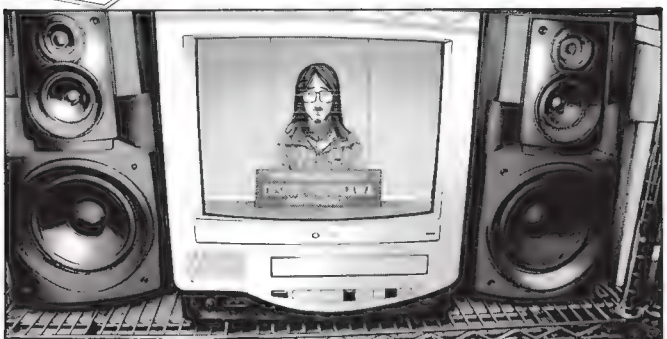
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA, 38 YEARS OLD. RUNNING AS AN INDEPENDENT FOR MAYOR OF TOKYO.

AFTER LEAVING WASEDA UNIVERSITY, HE DID INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ON HIS ULTIMATE GIGOLO THEORY AND TRAVELED JAPAN AS A SECURITY CONTRACTOR.

HE IS THE HEAD OF THE PEGASUS ENSEMBLE AND IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE PEGASUS BANDLEADER.

THIS BROADCAST IS A SUMMARY OF TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA'S POLITICAL VIEWS.





TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE.
THIS IS PEGASUS.
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

DUE TO A SPECIAL APPLICATION OF MY ULTIMATE GIGOLO THEORY, I AM ABLE TO TOUCH THE FUTURE.
THIS YEAR, IN A POOF, THE EARTH WILL CEASE TO EXIST.
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

BY THAT I MEAN IT'S A PROMISED HOPELESS-NESS.
TO PUT IT IN SIMPLE TERMS, IT'S LIKE A ONE-EYED DARUMA FALLING FROM THE SKY.
TOKYO NATIONAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

MY PREPARATIONS ARE NOW CULMINATING.
I'VE BEEN SEEKING COMRADES AND HONING SKILLS TO ELUDE THE HOPELESS-NESS.
TOKYO NATIONAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

GOOD...
..VIBRATIONS!
TOKYO NATIONAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

IS THE WORLD WORTH SAVING?
BUT I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED ...
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

...THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING! IT'S PAINFUL, LIKE A SLOW STRANGULATION...
I'M SURE THERE ARE MANY LOVERS OUT THERE WHO HAVE FELT THE WORLD STAGNATING IN THE LAST DECADE OR SO.
IT'S PITCH-BLACK, LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD.
NO MATTER HOW MANY THINGS WE HAVE AND HOW CONNECTED OUR TECHNOLOGY MAKES US...
TOSHIKI HOSHIKA
(INDEPENDENT)

I THINK IT HAS BEEN COMPLETED, IN THE MOST BALANCED WAY POSSIBLE.
BUT I THINK
THE WORLD HASN'T ENDED
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

THIS VERY SECOND IS THE PEAK OF
SHOULDN'T THAT BE
CONGRATU-LATIONS EVERYONE. CLAP, CLAP.
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAW
(INDEPENDENT)

TOSHIKI HOSHIKAW
(INDEPENDENT)

TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

I WANT TO ACKNOWL-EDGE YOUR SELFISHNESS!
BUT I...
TOKYO NATIONAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

LOVE.
BECAUSE...
...I LOVE YOU ALL ABSOLUTELY.
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

BUT I COULD ONLY COME UP WITH ONE ANSWER.
AS I THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT HARD WHILE TAKING A NAP, I SWEAR.
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

...DISCARD EVERYTHING AND START FRESH FOR THE FUTURE!
AS WHAT...
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

AS I, SUCCESSOR MAYOR OF TOKYO...
SO I...
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE

...I WILL LIBERATE ALL OF TOKYO!
PLEASE AFFIX POSTER IN INDICATED SPOT.
...LY REGISTERED CANDIDATES MAY USE THIS BOARD.
DAMAGING OR DEFACING POSTER CAN RESULT IN A PENALTY OR FINE
MIKIO SHIRAISHI
SHUSUKE MOCI
YUTARO
DO NOT PARK CARS OR BICYCLES IN FRONT OF THIS BULLETIN BOARD
FROM THE BLANK SLATE OF LAWLESS-NESS AND CHAOS...
...LET'S BUILD A NEW WORLD TOGETHER.

...OF EVERYONE'S OVERFLOWING KINDNESS, GOOD INTENTIONS, DECENCY, MORALITY...
AND ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER.
THIS FUCKIN' DISASTER HAS CONVINCED ME...

I CAN SHOUT IT LOUD!
WE ARE ABSOLUTELY CORRECT! WE ARE THE HONOR OF MANKIND!
I CRIED...
MY TEARS RAN FREELY.

ACTUALLY, YOU CAN DO IT *YOUR-SELVES.*
YOU CAN DO IT.

I'M SURE YOU ALL WANT TO SEE AN EQUAL, HAPPY, SMILING WORLD, RIGHT?
I THINK RIGHT NOW WE CAN GO BEYOND RACE, RELIGION OR NATIONALITY AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.
...AND CHANGE INTO THIS PEGASUS T-SHIRT.
THEN TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES RIGHT NOW...
PEGASUS
I WILL CONDUCT YOU IN SINGING A SONG OF PRAYER TO YOUR HEARTS' CONTENT.
GET RID OF YOUR HOUSES, YOUR ASSETS AND YOUR JOBS! GATHER AS A MEMBER OF PURE HUMANITY IN FRONT OF TOKYO CITY HALL.
FAMILIES, FRIENDS, LOVERS— DISCARD SUCH PETTY COMMUNITIES ...

YOU CAN LIVE!!!
YOU CAN LIVE!!!
KIDS AND ADULTS,
...NERDS AND BULLIES, PEDOPHILES AND MURDERERS, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

AND TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE.
LET'S ALL HOLD HANDS AS ONE.
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

IT'S FINE. THEY AREN'T HUMAN.
IF ANYONE OUT THERE DOESN'T WANT TO HOLD HANDS...
...LET'S GET TOGETHER AND BEAT THEM TO DEATH.
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STAGE IN OUR DEEP SPIRITUALITY!
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

THIS IS NOT RELIGION.
IT'S NOT NARCISSISM EITHER.
CHOOSE IT, IT CAN ACTUALLY HAPPEN...
HOW ABOUT IT? ARE YOU GETTING EMOTIONAL?
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

I'M SOARING!
I'M
—
I...
I!
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)
I WILL HAPPILY GO AND STAB THE PROMISED HOPELESSNESS.
IF YOU AGREE WITH ME...
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

TOKYO PREFECTURAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

WE'LL WITNESS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA FROM THIS HEAVENLY CITY, THIS COSMOPOLIS, THIS TOKYO.
YOU BUILT BUILT A NEW WORLD
TOKYO PREFECTURAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

... VIBRA-TIONS ...
GOOD ...
TOKYO PREFECTURAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

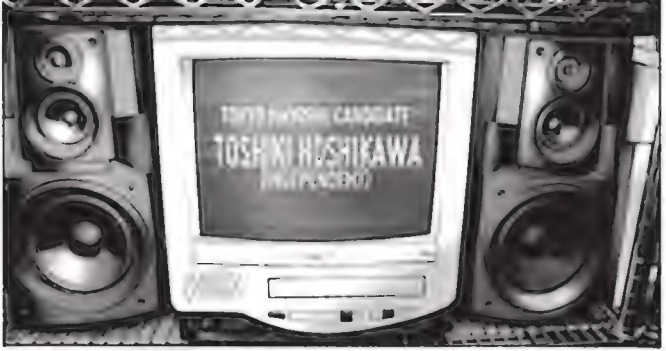
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

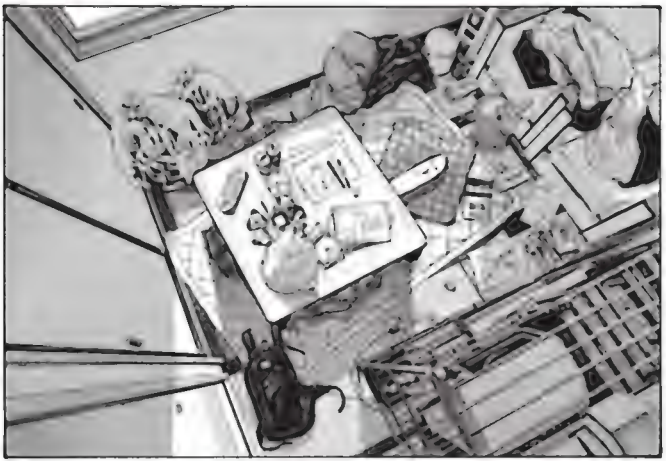
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE

TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA

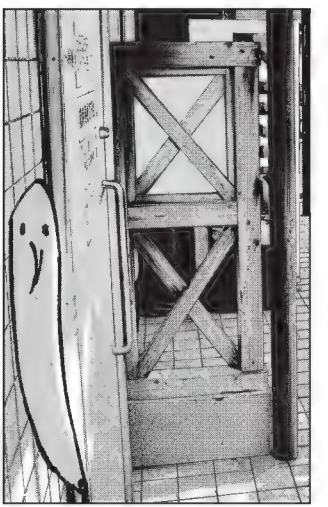
(INDEPENDENT)

THIS WAS TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA, EXPLAINING HIS POLITICAL VIEWS.


TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA



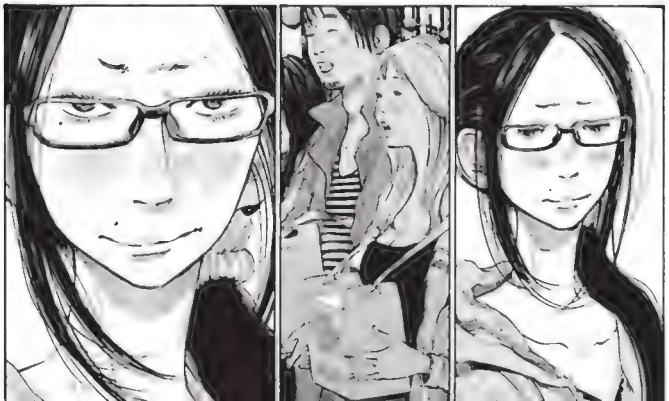
KIRIN



Chapter 93

SO MANY PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING RIGHT NOW.
PLEASE HELP!

PLEASE HELP!
PLEASE HELP.
THANK YOU.



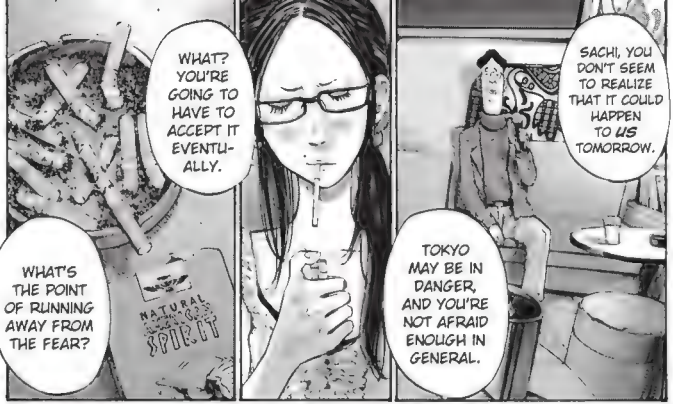
SNACK BAR
SOJIMAN
NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH♥
HOW ARE YOU?
YEAH, YEAH.
PEEEENIS!
HMM?
WHAT'S UP? YOU BOTH LOOK SO SERIOUS.

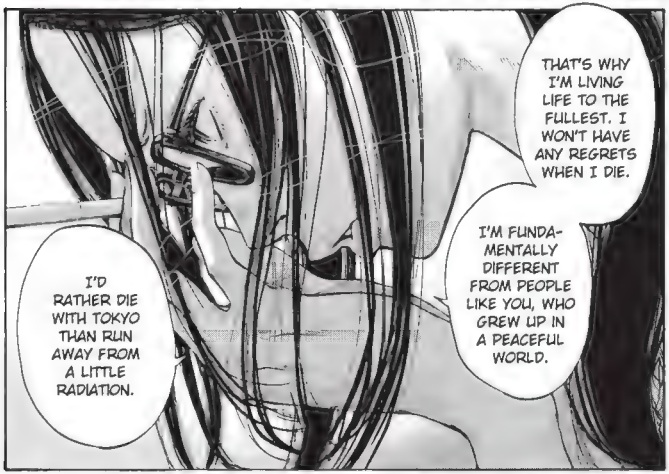
LET'S LEAVE SACHI HERE AND GO TO THE DISASTER ZONE TOGETHER TO HELP OUT.
MIMURA...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS.
...SCHOOL STARTS NEXT WEEK.
UMM...
THIS PIG KEEPS GOING ON ABOUT HOW SHE CAN'T STOP CRYING, SHE CAN'T EAT... GEEZ!
JUST LAST MONTH YOU WERE SAYING HOW YOU NEED TO HURRY UP AND REINCARNATE AS A SIAMESE CAT...
SO HURRY UP AND DIE. NO ONE'S STOPPING YOU.
HEY...
...WHY ARE YOU SO SERIOUS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I'M TOTALLY PISSED OFF WITH PEOPLE WHO TRY TO PUSH THEIR EASY SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM ON ME.
...AND I'M NOT GOING TO LIVE FOR ANYONE BUT MYSELF...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, MY ATTITUDE ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE...

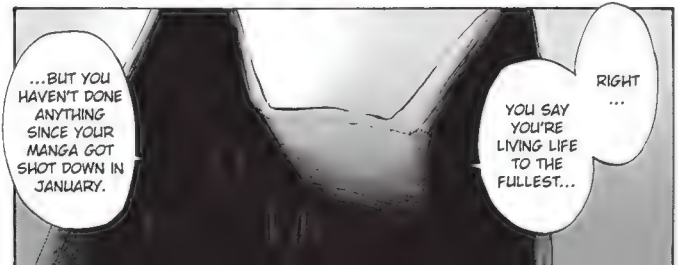
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WERE SO SELFISH AND BRUTAL.
ARE YOU INCAPABLE OF SORROW?
SIGH... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

AND IS IT REALLY HEALTHY TO SPEND SO MUCH ENERGY GUILT-TRIPPING ME FOR NOT STOPPING AT THE COLLECTION BOXES?
THINK ABOUT WHICH OF US IS MORE SCREWED UP.
YOU JUST FEEL GUILTY ABOUT HAVING A NICE LIFE AND WANT THE SATISFACTION OF WASHING THAT FEELING AWAY.
WHAT, LIKE YOU'RE ACTING ON TOTALLY PURE INTENTIONS? I DOUBT IT...

YOU'RE SO FULL OF IT.
SO WHAT?
THERE, THERE, SACHI...
I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT MY ABS ARE TELLING ME YOU SHOULD BOTH CALM DOWN.


SACHI, YOU DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE THAT IT COULD HAPPEN TO US TOMORROW.
TOKYO MAY BE IN DANGER, AND YOU'RE NOT AFRAID ENOUGH IN GENERAL.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF RUNNING AWAY FROM THE FEAR?
WHAT? YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO ACCEPT IT EVENTU-ALLY.
NATURAL SPIRIT

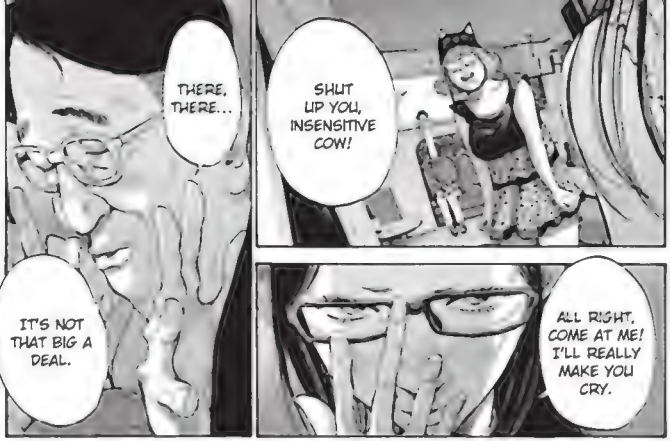

THAT'S WHY I'M LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST. I WON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS WHEN I DIE.
I'M FUNDA-MENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU, WHO GREW UP IN A PEACEFUL WORLD.
I'D RATHER DIE WITH TOKYO THAN RUN AWAY FROM A LITTLE RADIATION.


RIGHT ...
YOU SAY YOU'RE LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST...
...BUT YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING SINCE YOUR MANGA GOT SHOT DOWN IN JANUARY.

A STORY LAMENTING THE BOREDOM OF AN ORDINARY LIFE HAS ABOUT AS MUCH SUBSTANCE AS AIR.
I GUESS THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED WITH THE KIND OF MANGA YOU'RE AIMING FOR.
HAVE YOU AND FUNPUN HIT A WALL?

YOU SHOULD TRY CHANGING TOO, SACHI.
THE WORLD KEEPS CHANGING ...

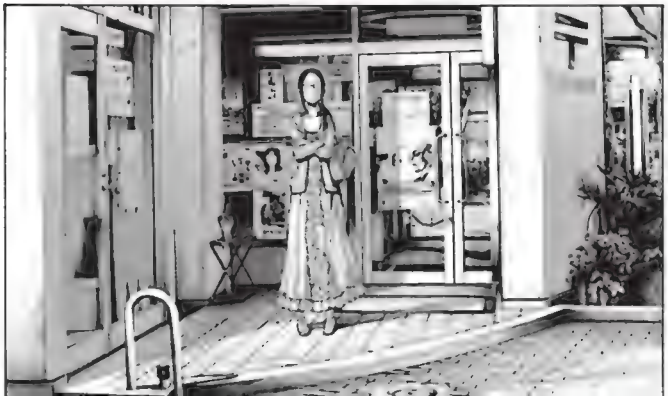
JUST REMEMBER YOU SAID THIS...
BECAUSE IN A FEW MONTHS YOU'LL BE STUFFING YOUR FACE LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED, AND ALL THIS SUFFERING WILL BE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN.
THIS IS NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE ME CHANGE.
BESIDES, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T CHANGE, NO MATTER WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.


THERE, THERE...
IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL.
SHUT UP YOU, INSENSITIVE COW!
ALL RIGHT, COME AT ME! I'LL REALLY MAKE YOU CRY.

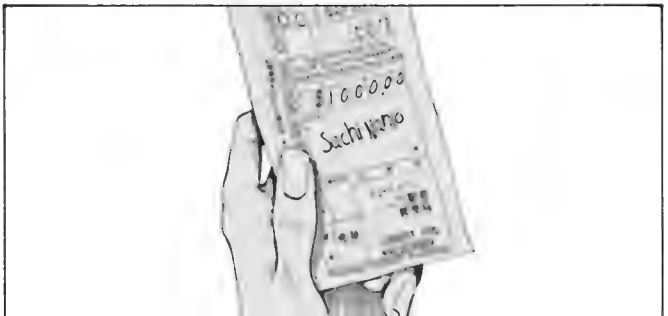
LET'S ALL GET TOGETHER AND GO SEE THEM.
ACTUALLY ...
...THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS WILL BE IN FULL BLOOM SOON.

YES, YES. THAT'S THE WAY.
...VERY MODERN AND ARTISTIC.
OH, AND YOUR PLASTIC FACE...
SO SENSUAL AND SEXY.
OH, MADAM, WHAT LOVELY FLAB...

EVERY-ONE HAS THEIR OWN OPINIONS.
YOU'RE BOTH RIGHT AND YOU'RE BOTH WRONG.
IT'S FUN TO HAVE LOTS OF DIFFERENT OPINIONS!
AND LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT.

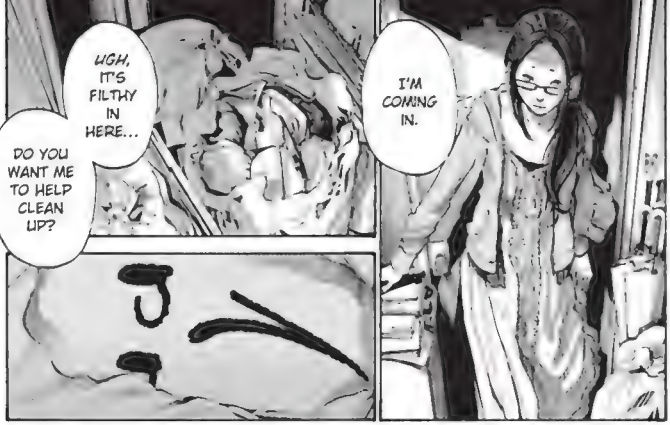


OH, WHERE'S PUNPUN?
NO...
...WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN TOUCH LATELY.
I'M SURE HE'S JUST SITTING AT HOME, CRYING.
YOU GUYS AREN'T TOGETHER TODAY?
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED...
...WHY AREN'T THE TWO OF YOU GOING OUT?
DON'T KNOW.
IMAGINE WHAT YOU WILL.


$1000.00
Sachiko

FUKUSHIMA D-
NUCLEAR POWER
PLANT UNIT 2 LOSES
COOLING FUNCTION

HEEEY.
PUNPUN.

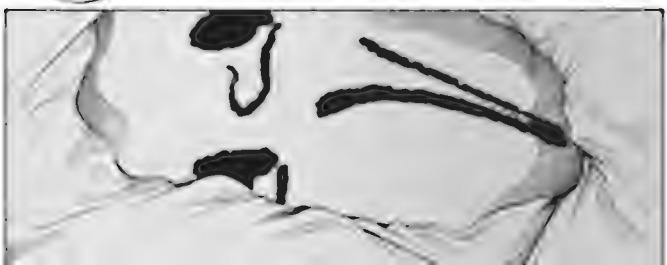

UGH, IT'S FILTHY IN HERE...
DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP CLEAN UP?
I'M COMING IN.

...YOU TOO, HUH?
OH, PUNPUN ...

AS IF.
ARE YOU MAKING PROGRESS ON THE MANGA?

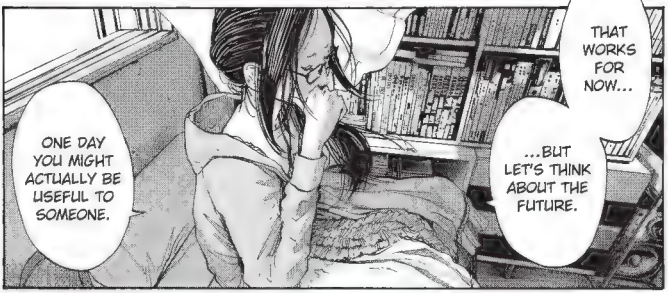
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...
...SO I'LL JUST SAY IT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO SOMETHING RASH RIGHT NOW.
IT'S OKAY TO JUST CRY UNTIL YOUR TEARS RUN DRY.

AFTER THAT, WHEN YOU'VE HAD A CHANCE TO AGONIZE AND THINK IT THROUGH, IF YOU DECIDE TO DO SOMETHING...
...WHATEVER IT IS, I'M ON YOUR SIDE.



"For the past few weeks, I've been thinking...

"...about how utterly useless I am."



"I feel like all I do is hold you back."

"I'm your pet?"

"So then...

I CAN MAKE A CLEVER, AMAZING, AWARD-WINNING MANGA ALL ON MY OWN IF I WANT.
YOUR TEARS ARE UNPRODUC-TIVE.

IT'S NO USE SAYING ANY-THING...
...TO YOU OR ANYONE ELSE.
GIGA HON KIHOTE
GIGA HON KIHOTE

Chapter 94

AAARGH!

TEACHER!

HEY, SHIMIZU.

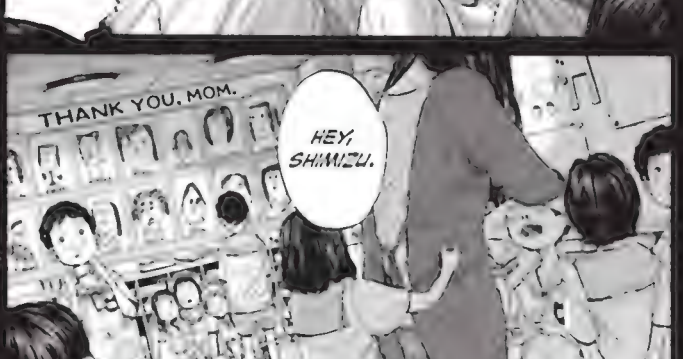
THANK YOU, MOM.

IS YOUR MOM...

... COMING TODAY?

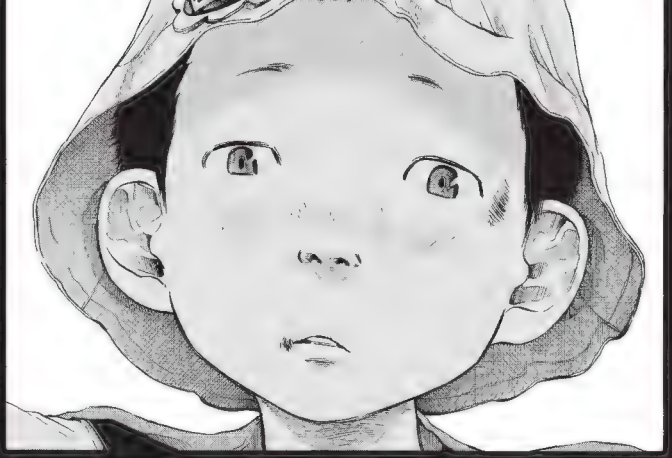
Masumi Saki

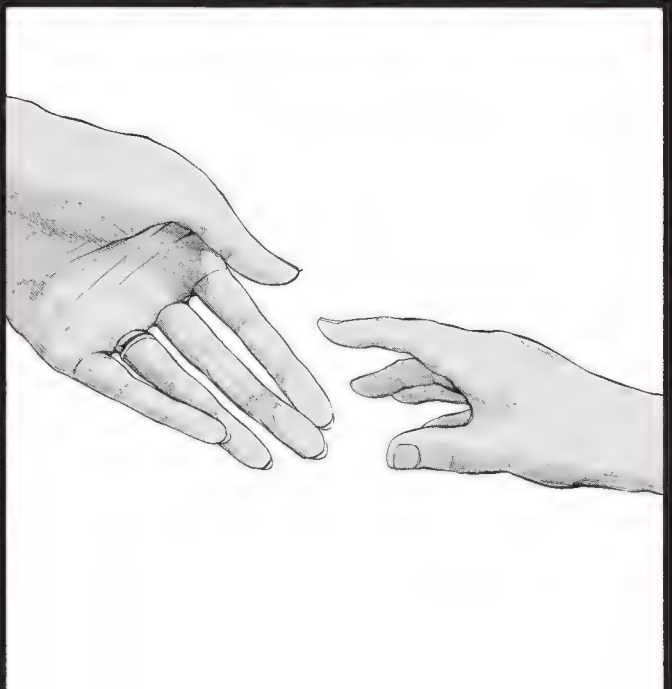
Kieri Kanai



KOH!
MASUMI!
OH, WHERE IS SEKI'S MOTHER?
SHE COULDN'T GET OFF OF WORK TODAY...
...BUT I'M GOING TO BRING HIM HOME, SO YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ...
THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS EVERY DAY, MRS. SHIMIZU.
GOOD-BYE.
BYE, SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
OKAY, YOU TWO, SAY GOOD-BYE TO YOUR TEACHER.

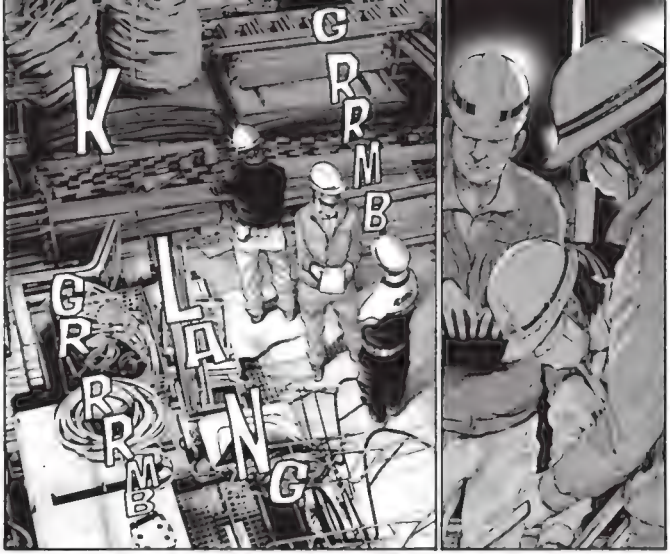
KOJI...
MASUMI'S PARENTS ARE VERY BUSY AT WORK, SO YOU TWO HAVE TO GET ALONG.
HEY, MASUMI, DON'T BE SHY..
LET'S ALL HOLD HANDS AND WALK HOME.
COOL DELIVERY
WHA ...?





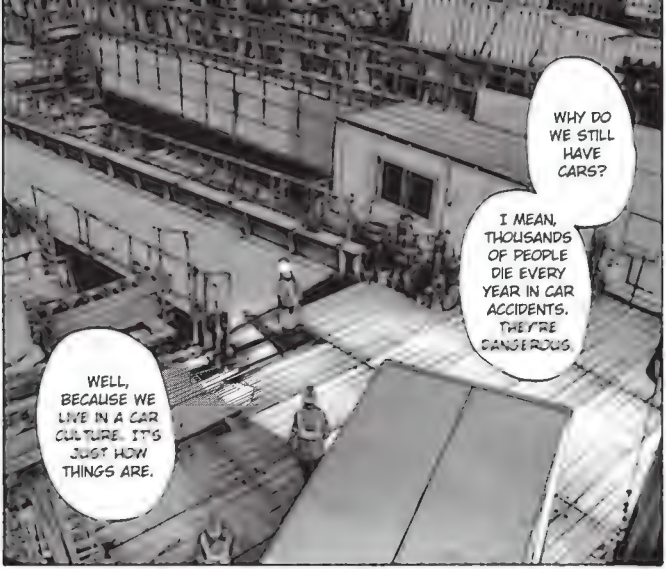
HEY
...
HEY.

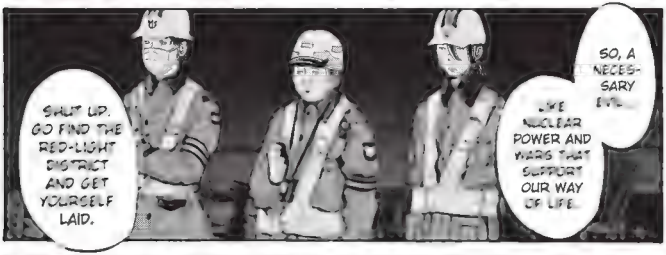
GRRRRMBB
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
GEEZ... I'M JUST GETTING TO THE PUNCH LINE.
HUH?
GR
RMB
I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO GUESS.
...AND WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE WRITES?
SO THIS AWFUL WOMAN HOLDS A PEN WITH HER VAGINA...
WOW, I GUESS THIRD-RATE STRIP CLUBS GET A BAD RAP.
CUZ IN JAPANESE IT'S SPELLED WITH THE KANJI FOR WOMAN, CROTCH AND POWER. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?
ENDEAV-OR!


K
GRRMB
LA
NG
GRRRMB

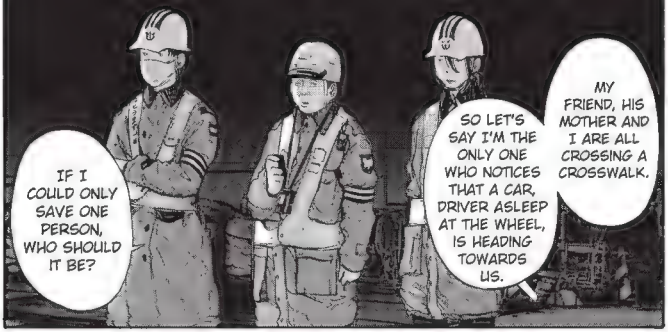
HEY...
SEKI, RIGHT?
YOU'RE YOUNG—YOU MUST HAVE A FUNNY STORY OR TWO.

UHH...
CAN'T WAIT.


WHY DO WE STILL HAVE CARS?
I MEAN, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DIE EVERY YEAR IN CAR ACCIDENTS. THEY'RE DANGEROUS.
WELL, BECAUSE WE LIVE IN A CAR CULTURE. IT'S JUST HOW THINGS ARE.


SO, A NECESSARY EVIL...
LIKE NUCLEAR POWER AND WARS THAT SUPPORT OUR WAY OF LIFE.
SHUT UP. GO FIND THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT AND GET YOURSELF LAID.

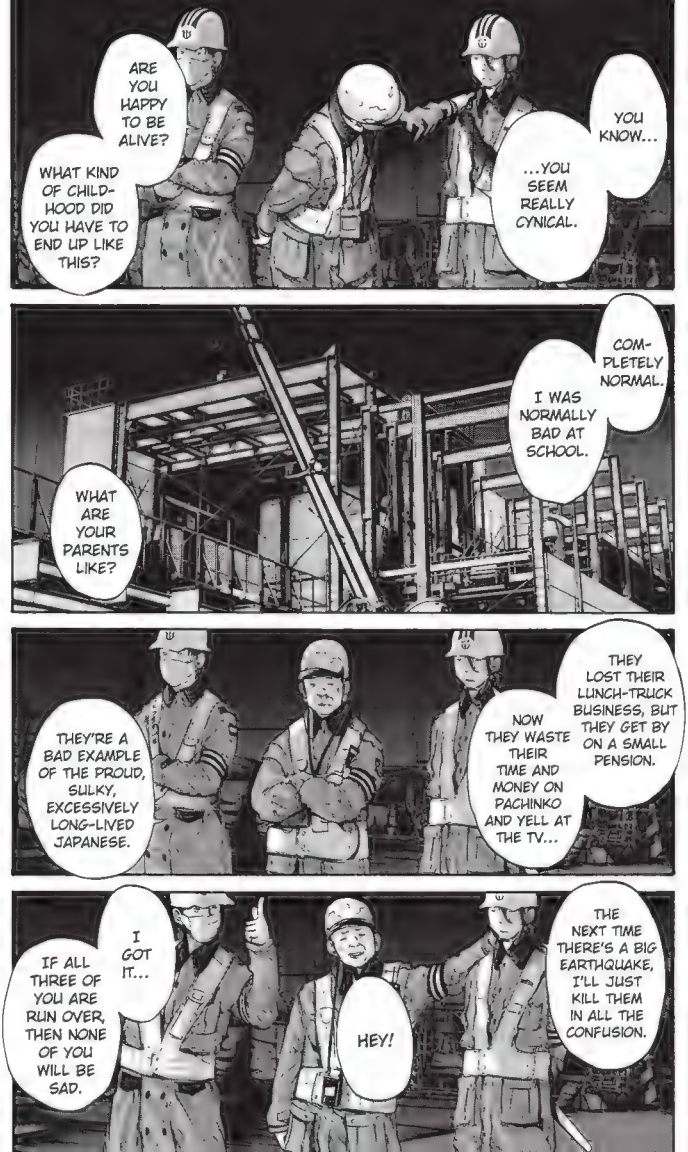
OKAY, HERE'S A QUESTION.


IF I COULD ONLY SAVE ONE PERSON, WHO SHOULD IT BE?
SO LET'S SAY I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO NOTICES THAT A CAR, DRIVER ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL, IS HEADING TOWARDS US.
MY FRIEND, HIS MOTHER AND I ARE ALL CROSSING A CROSSWALK.

REALLY?
I'D SAY YOUR FRIEND.
WELL...

I THINK THAT WOULD STAY WITH YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
I GOT IT—JUST RUN AWAY.

SERIOUSLY, RED-LIGHT DISTRICT. GET YOURSELF SEEN TO, MAN.
BESIDES, YOU CAN'T KNOW UNTIL IT HAPPENS HOW YOU'LL REACT.
...THERE ISN'T A REAL ANSWER.
WELL ...


ARE YOU HAPPY TO BE ALIVE?
WHAT KIND OF CHILD-HOOD DID YOU HAVE TO END UP LIKE THIS?
YOU KNOW...
...YOU SEEM REALLY CYNICAL.
COM-PLETELY NORMAL.
I WAS NORMALLY BAD AT SCHOOL.
WHAT ARE YOUR PARENTS LIKE?
THEY LOST THEIR LUNCH-TRUCK BUSINESS, BUT THEY GET BY ON A SMALL PENSION.
NOW THEY WASTE THEIR TIME AND MONEY ON PACHINKO AND YELL AT THE TV...
THEY'RE A BAD EXAMPLE OF THE PROUD, SULKY, EXCESSIVELY LONG-LIVED JAPANESE.
I GOT IT...
IF ALL THREE OF YOU ARE RUN OVER, THEN NONE OF YOU WILL BE SAD.
HEY!
THE NEXT TIME THERE'S A BIG EARTHQUAKE, I'LL JUST KILL THEM IN ALL THE CONFUSION.

I DON'T THINK THAT'S IT.
THAT'S IT?
OKAY, SO THAT'S ABOUT IT.
RED-LIGHT DISTRICT.
IT'S ON ME.
YOU JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT IT.
THE POINT IS, THERE ISN'T ALWAYS AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, UNLESS YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MATH.
I'VE KIND OF GOT A GIRLFRIEND.
NO, THAT'S OKAY.

I'M COMING, I'M COMING!
AHH...
...OH OH!
DO YOU WORK TOMOR-ROW?
...BUT YOU DON'T EVEN SPEND ALL THE MONEY YOU MAKE.
YOU WORK SO HARD...
YEAH, THE JUNK-COLLECTOR JOB.
IF I KEEP MOVING, I DON'T HAVE TO THINK.

I HAVE THE WHOLE DAY OFF TOMORROW.
I MIGHT QUIT THE CONSTRUC-TION JOB THOUGH.
I CAN'T TAKE IT OFF— SHIMIZU SAYS HE'S COMING TOO.
IT'S A LITTLE SCARY WHEN THE HEAVY MACHINERY AND TRUCKS GO BY.
SHIMIZU, SHIMIZU! YOU'RE ALWAYS HANGING OUT WITH HIM!
ARE YOU GAY?
HEY, DIDN'T I JUST MAKE YOU COME?
I WAS WONDER-ING...
WHY ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH ME?
BECAUSE YOU DON'T SMOKE.
I'M SERIOUS.

MOM ...?
WHERE'S MOM?

MMM.
SEKI ...
...WHERE'S MOM?
D...
...DON'T LOOK.
P
DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME?
I BELIEVE YOU.
REALLY?
SEE...
...SHE'S RIGHT THERE.
OKAY.
YOUR MOM'S ALIVE...
OKAY.
YOUR MOM'S ALIVE...

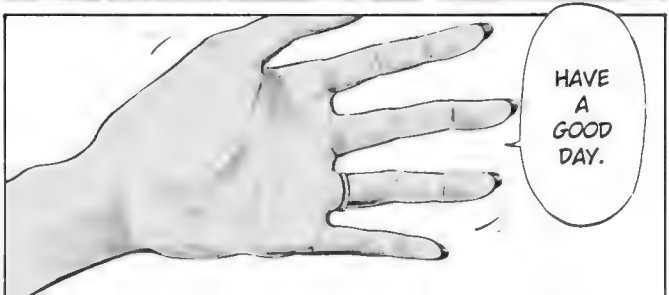
IF YOU BELIEVE ME...
...I'LL PROTECT YOU, NO MATTER WHAT.
YOU DON'T NEED TO FACE REALITY.
I'LL TAKE IT ALL ON FOR YOU.

THAT'S WHAT I SAID.

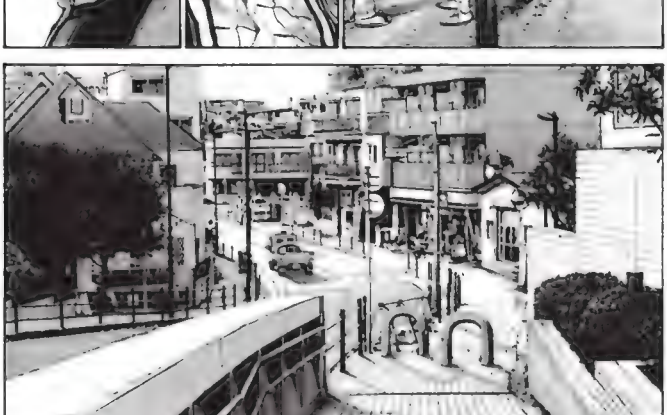
KOH.

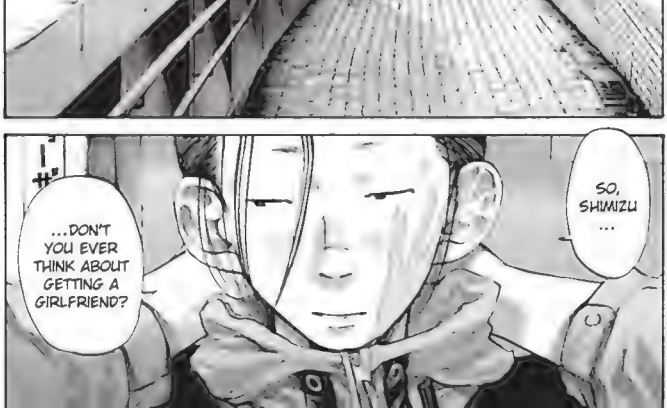
JOHAN
DO YOU HAVE YOUR TISSUES?
OH!
AN ENTIRE BOX! YOU GOT ME!

JOHAN
LATERS.


HAVE A GOOD DAY.

MARINE LIKE
FLOATING



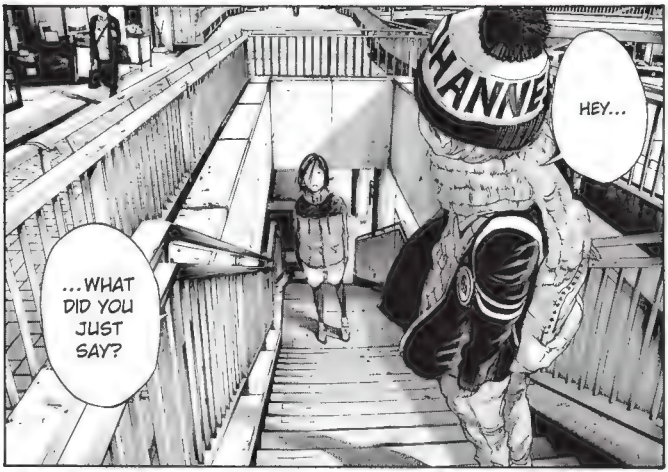

...DON'T YOU EVER THINK ABOUT GETTING A GIRLFRIEND?
SO, SHIMIZU ...

NO...
YOU KNOW.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU NEED TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT RIGHT NOW.

I'M STARTING TO THINK...
...THAT INSTEAD OF QUIBBLING OVER MAINSTREAM VALUES...
...MAYBE I SHOULD SETTLE DOWN AND GET MARRIED TO A TOTAL STRANGER ...
...AND HAVE KIDS, EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR APPEAR-ANCES OR TO BE PRETEN-TIOUS...

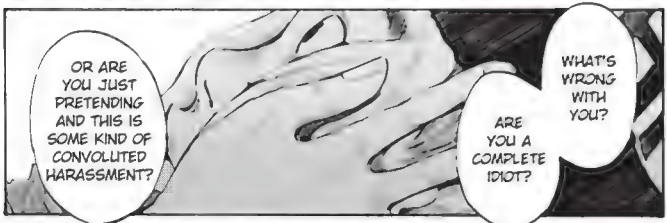
ARE'N'T COLLEGES FULL OF HORNY GIRLS FROM OUT OF TOWN?
NOW THAT YOU'VE STOPPED GOING ON ABOUT GOD, YOU PROBABLY DON'T STICK OUT SO MUCH AT SCHOOL.
UMM ...
RIGHT?
I'LL HELP YOU. IT'S SUPER EASY TO GET A GIRL.
THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO HANG OUT WITH ME SO MUCH.

YEAH ...
...BUT...
IT SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF WORK, SO NO THANKS.
BESIDES, I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE MY MOM ALONE.


HEY...
...WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!

YOU KNOW YOUR MOM IS DEAD, RIGHT?
THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT WHEN WE WERE IN KINDER-GARTEN.
IT'S JUST YOUR DAD, YOUR GRANDPA AND YOUR SISTER. JUST THE FOUR OF YOU.


WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
ARE YOU A COMPLETE IDIOT?
OR ARE YOU JUST PRETENDING AND THIS IS SOME KIND OF CONVOLUTED HARASSMENT?

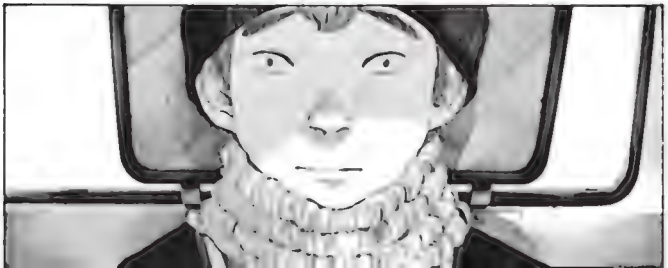
LATELY I KEEP THINKING ...
...THAT MY LIFE IS SHIT BECAUSE I'M WITH YOU.
YOU'RE HOLDING ME BACK.

I'M...
...IN YOUR WAY?
OH...
SORRY ...
MY BOSS IS CALLING.

HELLO, SEKI HERE.
SURE, I CAN GET RIGHT ON IT.
JOHAN

COSMO HEALTH CENTER, YEAH.
WE'LL HEAD RIGHT OVER.

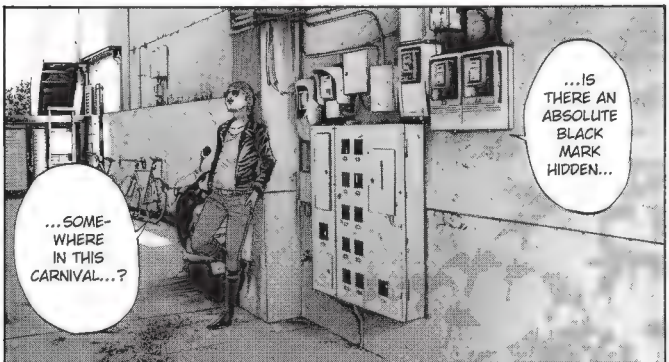
SHHHH...
...LET'S GO

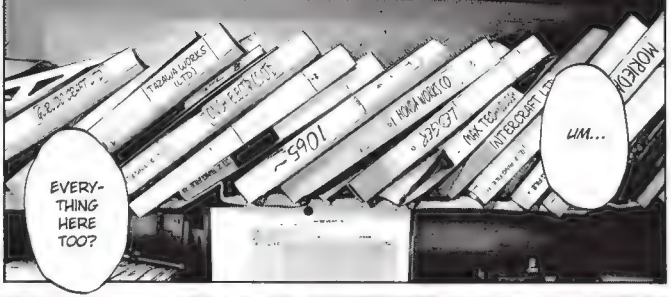


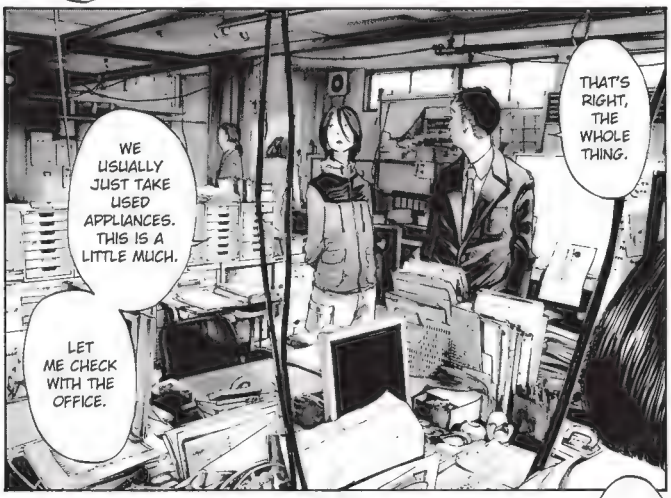
GOOD
VIBRATIONS.

Chapter 95

WE MAGIC WARRIORS CAN REPAIR THE DISCORDANT CHORDS OF THE AKASHIC RECORDS USING THE OVERWHELMING STABILITY OF A REGULAR TETRAHEDRON.
BUT WHY DO YOU REFUSE, LOVERS?
ARE YOU CHILDREN WHO CAN? OR...


...IS THERE AN ABSOLUTE BLACK MARK HIDDEN...
...SOME-WHERE IN THIS CARNIVAL...?


EVERY-
THING
HERE
TOO?
UM...

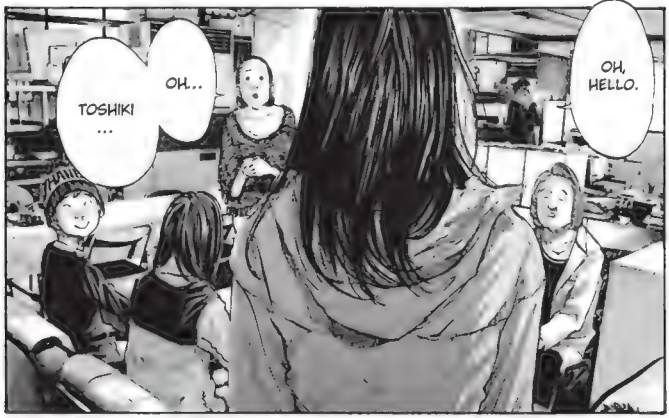

WE
USUALLY
JUST TAKE
USED
APPLIANCES.
THIS IS A
LITTLE MUCH.
LET
ME CHECK
WITH THE
OFFICE.
THAT'S
RIGHT,
THE
WHOLE
THING.

NO, I
HAVE THE
AUTHORITY
HERE. YOU
DON'T EVEN
NEED TO BE
HERE.
BESIDES,
WE'VE
TALKED IT
ALL OVER
WITH THE
LAWYERS.
UM,
MASAKI...
YOU
CAN'T JUST
GET RID OF
EVERYTHING
LIKE THIS.
LET'S TALK
ABOUT IT
AGAIN.

I INHERITED THIS BUILDING FROM MY FATHER...
...ALONG WITH SOME DOJO-ISH BUILDINGS IN NERIMA AND HACHIOJI.
MY DAD WAS LAZY AND DIDN'T INCORPORATE, SO WE HAD A LOT OF PROBLEMS WITH THE INHERITANCE ...
HAVING SAID THAT, OF COURSE I'M GOING TO SHUT THIS SHADY COMPANY DOWN.
COSMO HEALTH CENTER

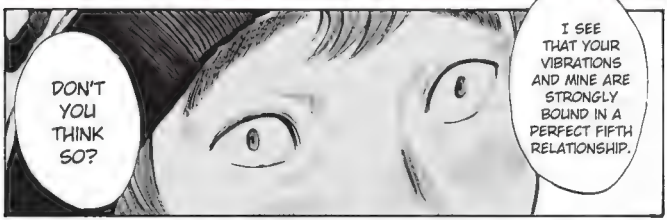
ORIGINALLY, IT WAS JUST A CHIROPRACTIC AND QIGONG PRACTICE.
I'M SURE SOMEONE CALLED HIM "DOCTOR" ONCE, AND HE STARTED TO GET IDEAS.
YEAH, MY BUSINESS IS NOTHING LIKE MY DAD'S.
I STARTED IT WHILE I WAS IN COLLEGE. I RUN CELL PHONE SITES.
MASAKI HOSHIKAWA
TEL
FAX

B-BUT THIS WATER IS REALLY GOOD.
YES, YES...
IF YOU ASK ME, I THINK IT'S PRETTY TASTELESS TO RUN A BUSINESS THAT CLAIMS TO HAVE SUPERNATURAL POWERS.
UNIVERSE COSMO WATER
I'M IN THE BUSINESS OF SELLING SUBSTANCE-FREE THINGS TOO.
OH, EXCUSE ME. THAT'S MY PHONE.


OH...
TOSHIKI ...
OH, HELLO.

JUST FIT!

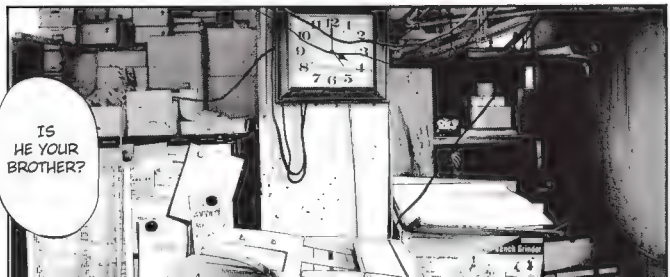
GOOD VIBES HAVE UNITED SMARTLY WITH YOUR SYNCOPATION.
IT MEANS THIS REUNION WAS UNDOUBTEDLY WRITTEN IN THE AKASHIC RECORDS.


I SEE THAT YOUR VIBRATIONS AND MINE ARE STRONGLY BOUND IN A PERFECT FIFTH RELATIONSHIP.
DON'T YOU THINK SO?

LET ME ASK YOU...
HEY, SNOT FACE!
CAN YOU STILL LOVE THIS WORLD?

TOSHIKI, QUIT HANGING AROUND WASTING TIME.
YOU AREN'T GETTING ANY MORE HANDOUTS FROM DAD. YOU CAN'T GO AROUND PLAYING BEGGAR NOW.
RUNNING FOR MAYOR.. WHAT A STUPID GAME.
EVEN THESE KIDS ARE WORKING HARD.

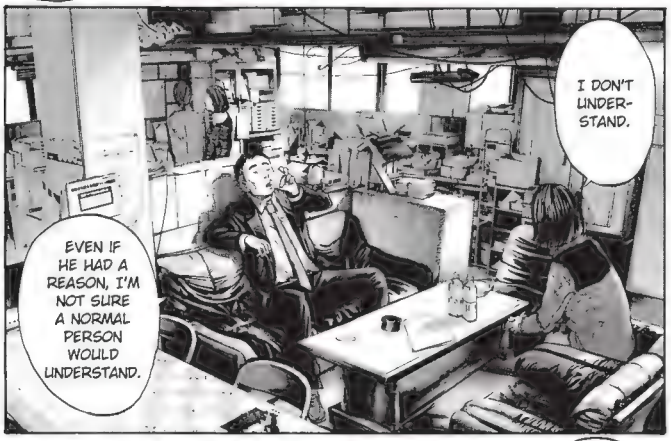
DON'T "HUH?" ME.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE GOING TO WIN? HOW DELUDED ARE YOU?!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THEY'RE GOING AT YOU ON THE INTERNET?


IS HE YOUR BROTHER?

I'VE NEVER KNOWN WHAT HE'S THINKING...
...BUT HIS CONS WORK, JUST LIKE MY DAD'S.
ACTUALLY, HE'S GOT SOME KIND OF GROUP OF DISCIPLES, AND THEY'RE UP TO SOMETHING WEIRD.
I INHERITED MY DAD'S TALENT FOR MONEY, SO I GUESS WE DIVIDED HIS TALENTS EVENLY.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE PYRAMID OF SAGAMIHARA?
NO...
IN JUST ONE NIGHT, A HUGE PILE OF DESKS WAS RAISED INTO A PYRAMID IN THE COURTYARD OF A MIDDLE SCHOOL.
IT WAS PROBABLY BEFORE YOUR TIME.
OVER 900 DESKS, FORMED INTO A PERFECT REGULAR TETRAHEDRON.

A DOZEN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PULLED IT OFF.
PUDDY PUDDING
MY BROTHER ORGANIZED THE WHOLE THING. THEY LOCKED UP THE CUSTODIAN. MY BROTHER WAS ARRESTED AS THE MAIN SUSPECT.
UM...
WHY WOULD HE DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
I DON'T KNOW...
I DON'T THINK THERE WAS A REASON. MY BROTHER IS JUST LIKE THAT.


I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
EVEN IF HE HAD A REASON, I'M NOT SURE A NORMAL PERSON WOULD UNDERSTAND.

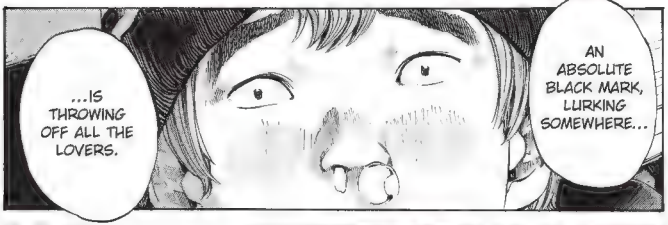
OH, BUT HE DID SAY...
"THE REGULAR TETRAHEDRON IS THE MOST STABLE POLYGON.

"I WAS ABLE TO STABILIZE THE VIBRATIONAL DISTURBANCE.
"ONCE AGAIN, UNBEKNOWNST TO THE MASSES, COUNTLESS LIVES WERE SAVED FROM UNPRECEDENTED DISASTERS."

JUST TWO MORE...
JUST TWO MORE AND I WILL BE ABLE TO BATTLE THE ABSOLUTE-EVIL DISSONANCE.
THE ONES TO COME ARE SERIOUSLY UNPREC-EDENTED.
BUT THEY CONTINUE TO LEAPFROG THEIR WAY BIGGER AND BIGGER.

MAYBE THIS WORLD ISN'T WORTH SAVING.
WHY WON'T YOU LOOK AT THE DESPAIR RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU AND CONTINUE FORWARD INTO DISASTER?
BUT WHY, LOVERS?

A BLACK MARK.
I'M VERY SAD.
THERE IS A BLACK MARK LURKING.
YOU ARE ALL CHILDREN WHO CAN.

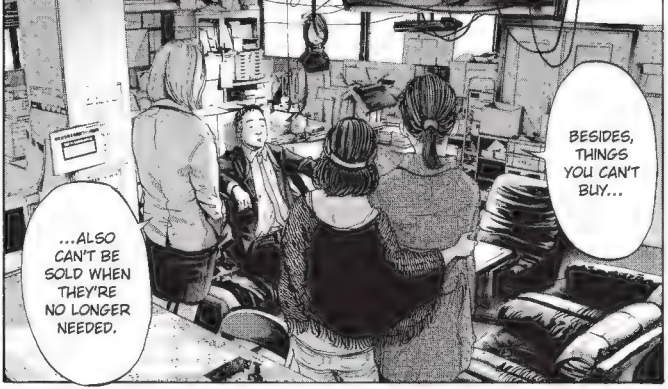

...IS THROWING OFF ALL THE LOVERS.
AN ABSOLUTE BLACK MARK, LURKING SOMEWHERE...

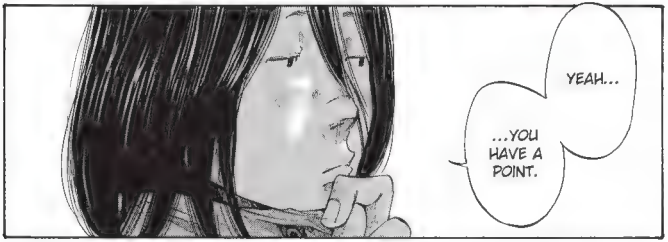
DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE...
...A NEW WORLD OVERFLOWING WITH LAUGHTER AND HAPPINESS?
BUT I STILL WANT TO SAVE THIS WORLD...
...BECAUSE I HAVE ABSOLUTE LOVE FOR YOU ALL.

THE WORLD CAN BECOME MORE BEAUTIFUL.
LET'S BECOME AS ONE.
I NEED YOU.
WE ARE...
... COMRADES.

MY BOSS WILL COME OVER TOMOR-ROW TO DO AN ESTIMATE ...
YES, I'LL TELL HIM.
I SEE...
...BUT HE SAYS HE WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE IT ALL.
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S THAT.
MAYBE I'LL JUST LEAVE IT FOR NOW.
EITHER WAY, I'M PLANNING TO TEAR DOWN THE BUILDING.
WAIT ...
WAIT, PLEASE DON'T DO THAT!
YOU'RE STARTING TO ANNOY ME.
I GAVE MY DAD AN EXTRAVA-GANT FUNERAL.

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO LIVE FOR NOW?
MURDERER! YOU'RE A MURDERER!
SHUT UP. DON'T EXAGGERATE.
PEOPLE DON'T DIE THAT EASILY.
BESIDES, YOU'RE ALL FINE, EVEN THOUGH MY DAD IS DEAD.
SEI! SEI!
WELL...
...THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN'T BUY.
WHAT IS THAT? IT'S CREEPY. IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN BUY THE LAND FROM ME.
LIKE MEMORIES? PEOPLE'S FEELINGS?
I DON'T LIKE TO THINK THAT WAY.


BESIDES, THINGS YOU CAN'T BUY...
...ALSO CAN'T BE SOLD WHEN THEY'RE NO LONGER NEEDED.

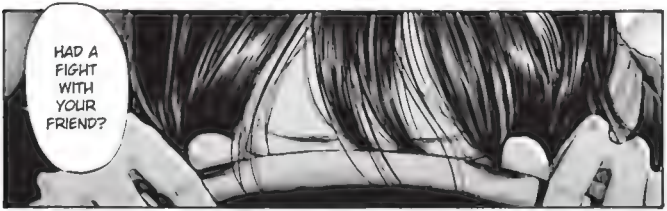

YEAH...
...YOU HAVE A POINT.

SHIMIZU ...
...LET'S GO.

HEY.
WHY DON'T YOU GO ON YOUR OWN?
I CAN GET MYSELF HOME.
WHY? I HAVE THE CAR—I'LL DROP YOU OFF.
I'M IN YOUR WAY, RIGHT, SEKI?

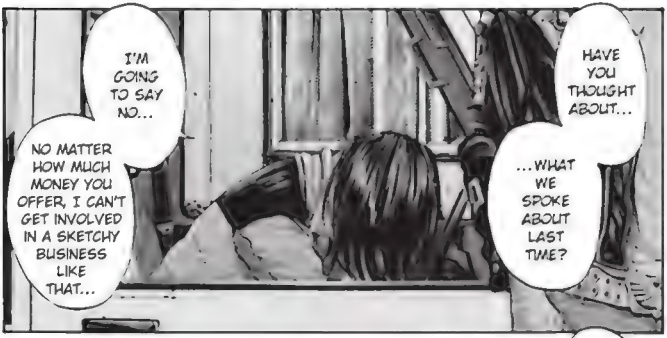
YOU IDIOT, I TOLD YOU NOT TO TAKE THAT SERIOUSLY.
BESIDES, YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT...
YOU!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING, SEKI.

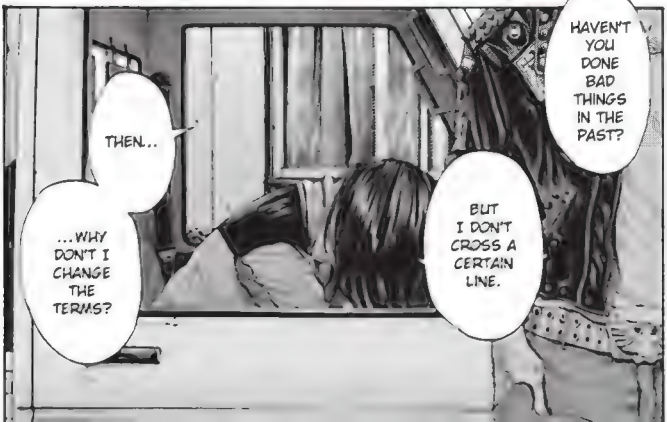
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
LATER...
WHATEVER, YOU IDIOT.


HAD A FIGHT WITH YOUR FRIEND?

OH...
... THANKS FOR THE OTHER DAY.
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE.

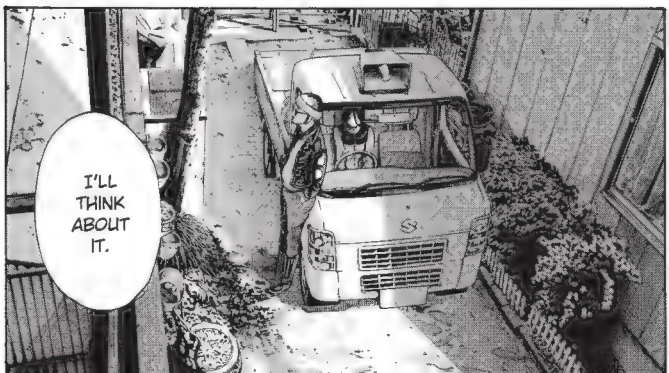
YOU REALLY ARE A JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES.
YOU DO ALL KINDS OF THINGS.
THIS IS MY MAIN JOB.
THE OTHER ONES ARE JUST TO KILL TIME.

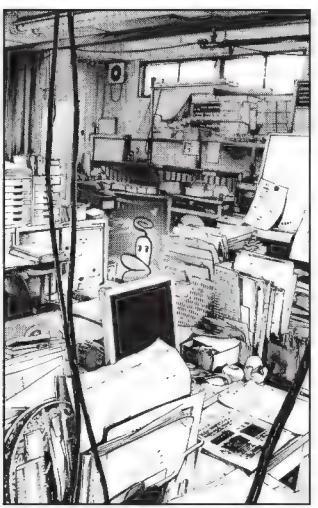

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT...
...WHAT WE SPOKE ABOUT LAST TIME?
I'M GOING TO SAY NO...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY YOU OFFER, I CAN'T GET INVOLVED IN A SKETCHY BUSINESS LIKE THAT...

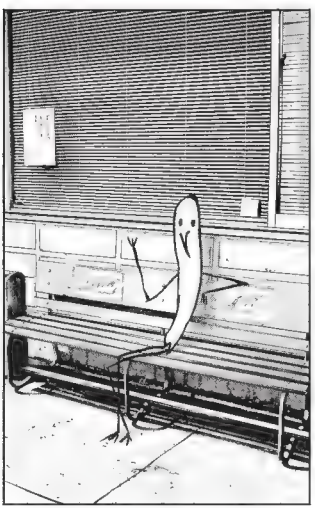

HAVEN'T YOU DONE BAD THINGS IN THE PAST?
BUT I DON'T CROSS A CERTAIN LINE.
THEN...
...WHY DON'T I CHANGE THE TERMS?

IT'S A SIMPLE JOB. ALL IT INVOLVES IS PUSHING A BUTTON.
3600

UNLIKE PEOPLE...
...MONEY WILL NEVER BETRAY YOU.


I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.





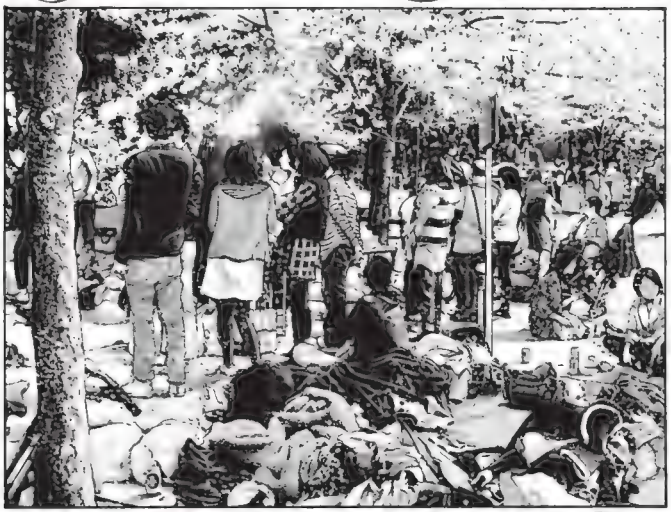
Chapter 96

FOOLISH PEOPLE, LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO...
...MY GIRLFRIEND, GESUMI!
I'M GESUMI HEBIZUKA. THANK YOU FOR BEING MIMURA'S FRIENDS!
I WORK IN THE STORE AT MIMURA'S COLLEGE.

OH...NOT WHAT I EXPECTED.
MIMURA, ARE YOU KIDDING ME? BRING SOMEONE UGLIER.

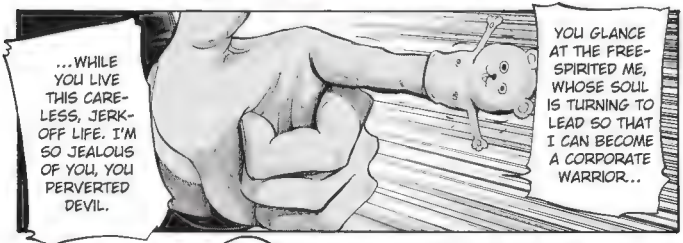
SEE, THIS IS WHY I TOLD YOU...
...AFTER-NOON IS TOO LATE.

YOU COULD HAVE GONE FOR SNACKS WITH EVERYONE ELSE, ONOTTI.
GESUMI AND I WILL LOOK FOR A FREE SPOT.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT, THINGS ARE A LITTLE AWKWARD BETWEEN YOU AND SACHI RIGHT NOW, HUH?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST HURRY UP AND MAKE UP?
IT'S THROWING US ALL OFF, YOU ASSHOLE.



WELL, BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...
...SPRING HAS SPRUNG.

THIS SPRING I'VE DECIDED THAT JUST A TEACHING CERTIFICATE ISN'T SECURE ENOUGH, SO I'VE STARTED GOING TO INFORMATION MEETINGS AT CORPORATE OFFICES.
I'M WEARING A SUIT— CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
SO HOW LONG HAVE WE KNOWN EACH OTHER?
SINCE '95, SO THIS IS OUR SIXTH SPRING.

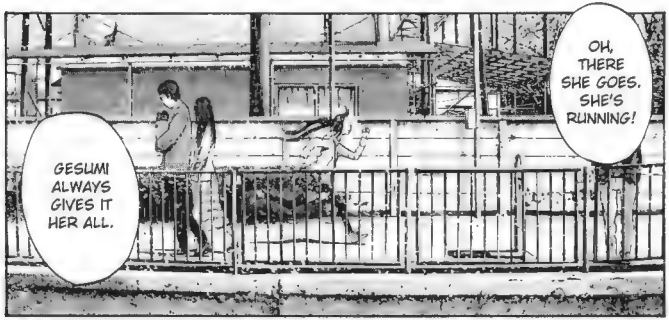

...WHILE YOU LIVE THIS CARELESS, JERK-OFF LIFE. I'M SO JEALOUS OF YOU, YOU PERVERTED DEVIL.
YOU GLANCE AT THE FREE-SPIRITED ME, WHOSE SOUL IS TURNING TO LEAD SO THAT I CAN BECOME A CORPORATE WARRIOR..

I'LL GO LOOK OVER THERE.
YES, YES, YES, GO TO THE VERY ENDS OF THE EARTH!
REAL ESTATE AGENT EXAM
WHEN YOU BECOME A REAL ESTATE AGENT, I'M GOING TO ACT COOL AND COME RENT A NICE ROOM FROM YOU, ONOTTI.
GEEZ, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE CARRYING THAT AROUND.

RADICAL SPACE

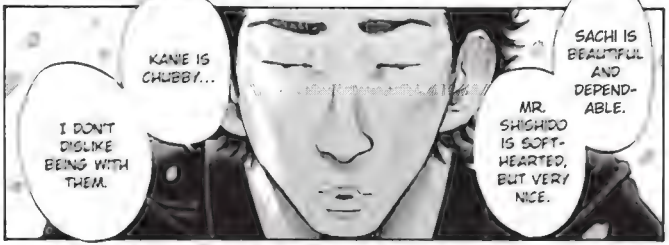
WHAT ARE YOU READING, PIGGY?
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?
MAYBE I'LL HAVE LIPOSUCTION.
MAYBE I'LL HAVE BREAST IMPLANTS. I HAVE SOME TIME.
WHO'S GOING TO BENEFIT FROM YOU HAVING BIG BOOBS?
I'M DESPERATE TO LOSE WEIGHT. MY HUSBAND MIGHT LEAVE ME IF I DON'T.

I'M GOING TO EAT SAUSAGES LIKE A GERMAN TODAY!
THAT'S SUCH A KIDDIE DRINK. NO WAY, NO WAY!
IS SWEET SAKE OKAY?
SORRY, THE CHERRY-BLOSSOM VIEWERS SEEM TO HAVE BOUGHT ALL THE BEER.
YOU ARE SUCH BRATS. LET'S GO TO A SUPER-MARKET.


OH, THERE SHE GOES. SHE'S RUNNING!
GESUMI ALWAYS GIVES IT HER ALL.

OOPS, SHE FELL.

I WONDER IF GESUM...
...WILL GET ALONG WITH EVERYONE?


KANIE IS CHUBBY...
I DON'T DISLIKE BEING WITH THEM.
SACHI IS BEAUTIFUL AND DEPEND-ABLE.
MR. SHISHIDO IS SOFT-HEARTED, BUT VERY NICE.

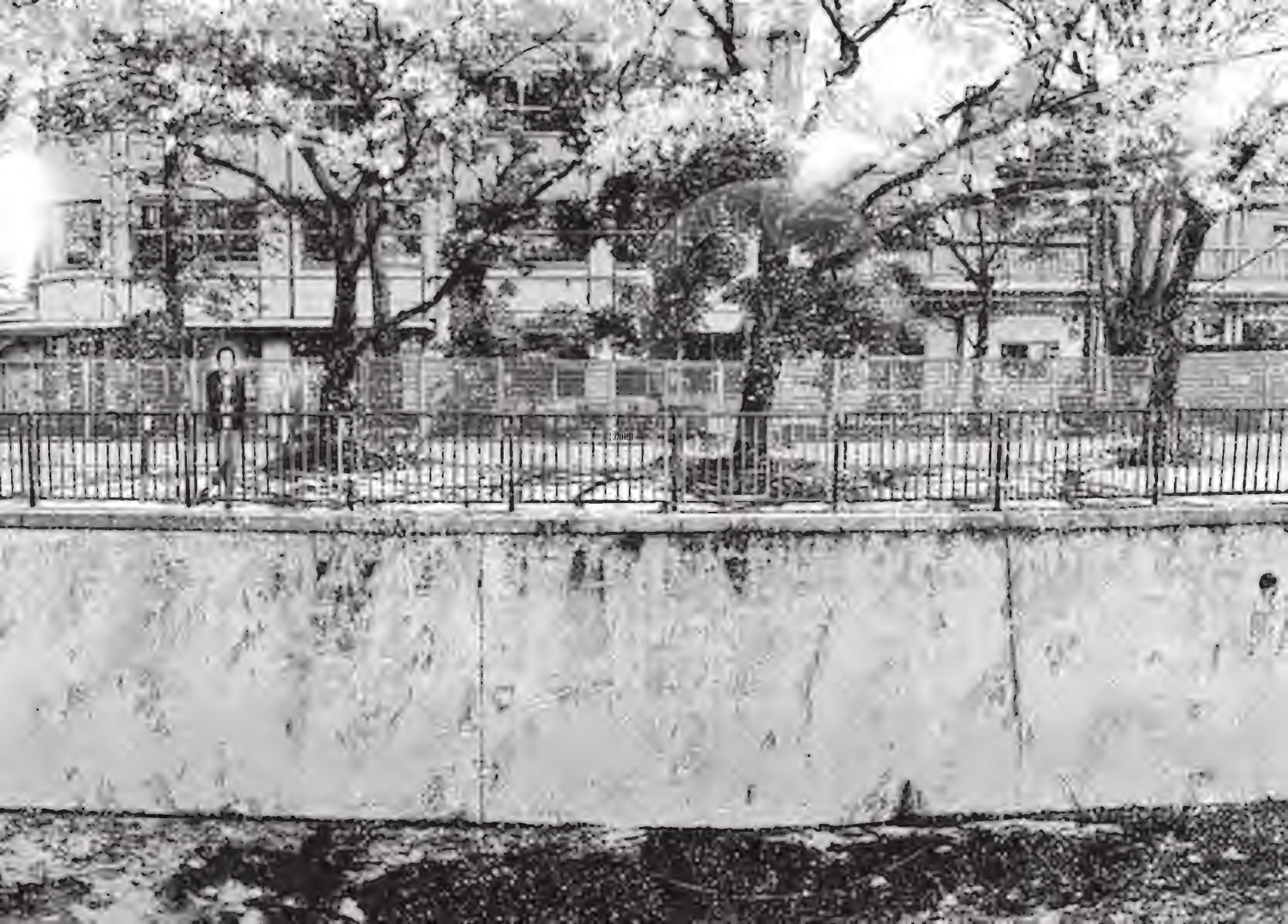
...AND COMPLAINING ABOUT WORK, BUT THAT'S OKAY TOO.
I'M SURE BY THEN WE'LL ALL BE SAYING HOW BUSY WE ARE...
...NEXT YEAR AND THE YEAR AFTER THAT.
WE SHOULD ALL GET TOGETHER ...

...
HONESTLY
...
BUT...

...COULD CONTINUE FOREVER.
I WISH DAYS LIKE TODAY, JUST ORDINARY PEACEFUL DAYS...

...WHAT DO YOU THINK, ONOTTI?
WELL...

Punpun was...



MIMURA!

I FOUND A SPOT, SO HURRY!

GOOD JOB, GESUMI!

YOU WILL BE SUITABLY REWARDED!

HOW TO GET A STANDARD DRIVER'S LICENSE
HIS STUDIES FOR THE REAL ESTATE LICENSE SEEM TO BE GOING WELL, AND IF HE'S GOING TO DO REAL ESTATE, HE'S GOING TO NEED A DRIVER'S LICENSE.
OH, I THINK PUNPUN SHOULD GET HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE.
MR. SHISHIDO, WHY ARE YOU GETTING THAT NOW?
I WONDER ...
HE'S PRETTY RANDOM.

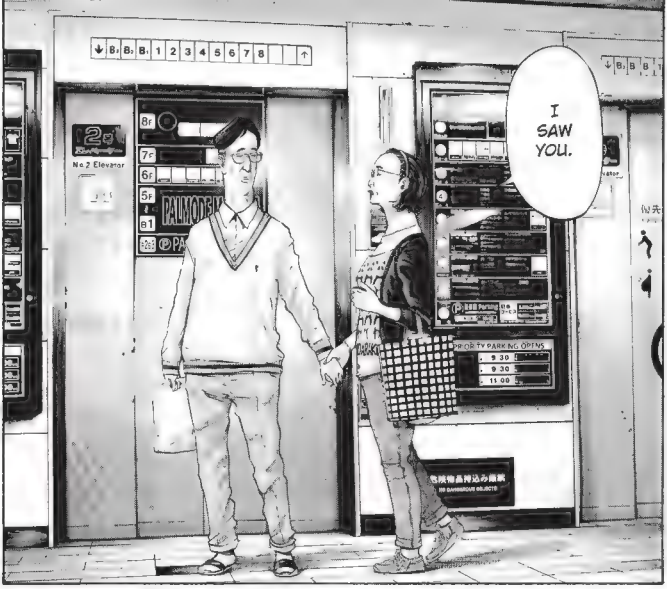
CASHIER
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE FIGHTING.
WE'LL GO BACK TO NORMAL EVENTUALLY.
THAT'S $8.95, PLEASE.
YOU'RE SO STUBBORN, SACHI..
YOU'RE OLDER, SO CUT HIM SOME SLACK.

CUTE CATS.
$10
OH...
RED AND WH

I'M GOING TO BUY A PAIR..
...FOR YOU AND PUNPUN.
SACHI...

YOU CAN USE IT AS AN EXCUSE TO MAKE UP...

HEEY.
SACHI?
SACHI.
VALET PARK
TO SHOP TENANT
CAMERA


I SAW YOU.
No.2 Elevator
PRIOR TV PARKING OPENS

HERE...
...TAKE IT OUT.
I'LL GO TO THE REGISTER WITH YOU.

HUH?
TO SHOP AS A TENANT

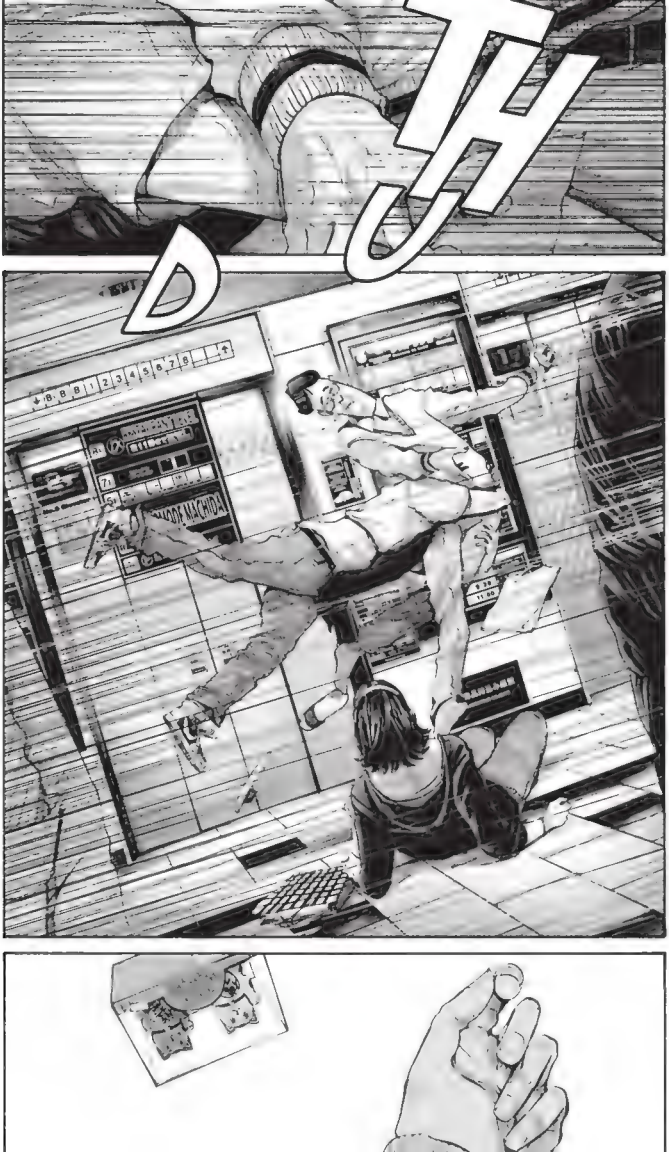
GEEZ, AT YOUR AGE...
I'VE SEEN IT ON TV, BUT WHEN I SEE IT IN FRONT OF ME, I CAN'T JUST STAND BY.
UM...
THE THOUGHT OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU MAKES ME SICK.
TO SHOP A TENANT

SOME-
BODY
HELP!
THIS
MAN
IS A
SHOP-
LIFTER!
INFORMATION
B 1 2
PANDARAKE
I THOUGHT
YOU LOOKED
SUSPICIOUS.
NOT THAT,
WHAT'S
IN YOUR
POCKET...
OH
NO...
I WAS
PLANNING
TO PAY
FOR THIS.
I'VE
BEEN
WATCHING
YOU.
DON'T
PLAY
DUMB
WITH
ME!
I ONLY
HAVE MY
WALLET
IN MY
POCKET.

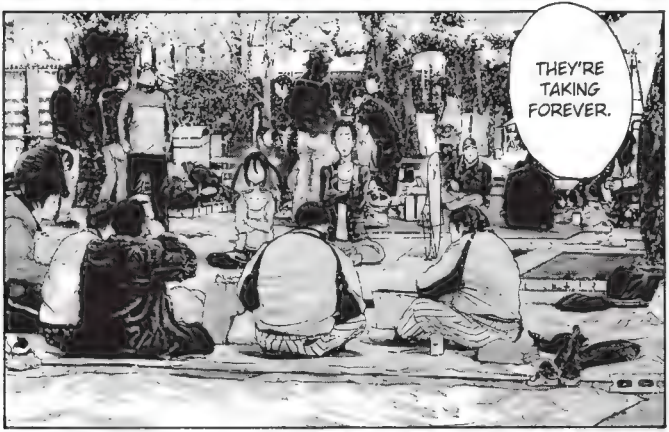
SOMEONE GRAB THIS MAN!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!
SLAP
OH!

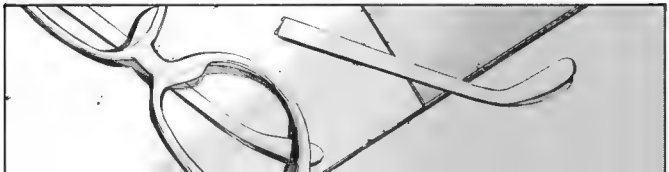
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.
SERIOUSLY?

VIOLENCE!

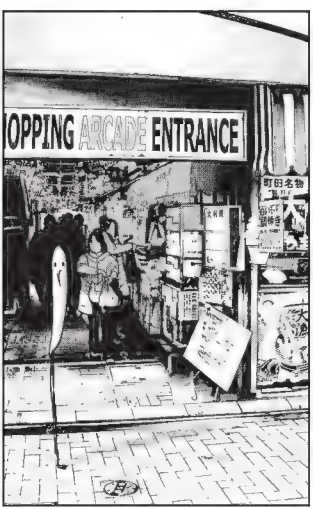

THUD

HEY, KANIE...
HAVE YOU SEEN MR. SHISHIDO?


THEY'RE TAKING FOREVER.



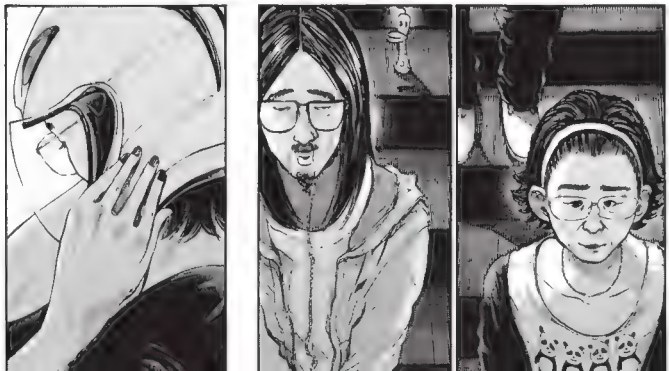
SECURE HIS ARMS!
BRING ME A ROPE OR SOME-THING!
SHOP-LIFTING?
SOMEONE GET SECURITY.
HE'S AN OLD MAN.

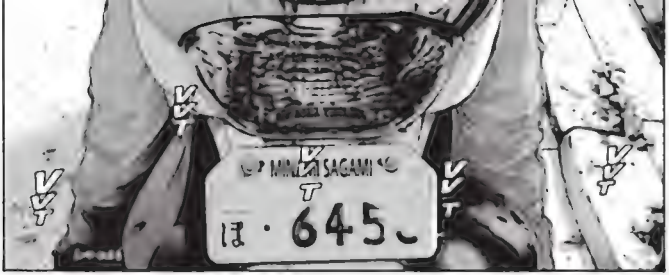

OPPING ARCADE ENTRANCE

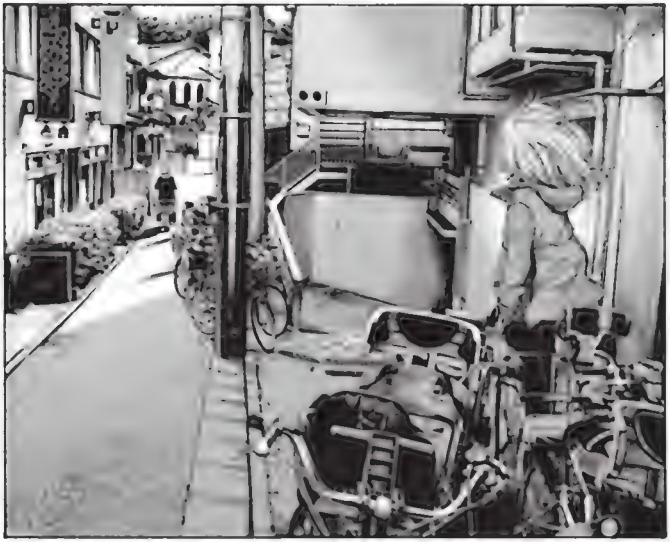
WOW!
THAT WAS SOME TACKLE!
YEAH, WELL, I USED TO PLAY RUGBY IN HIGH SCHOOL.

Chapter 97

OH, SECURITY, OVER HERE!

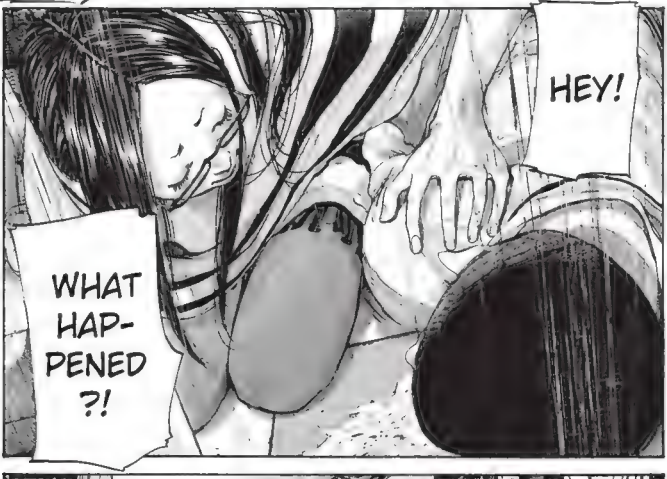


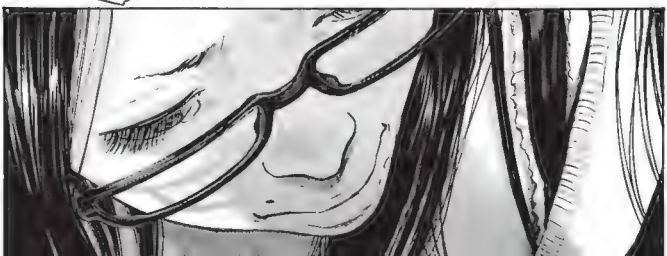

SAGAMI
ほ・645



IT'S A BLACK MARK.

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
MOVE, YOU FAT BASTARD!
YOU'RE GOING TO CRUSH MR. SHISHIDO.
WAIT...


HEY!
WHAT HAP-PENED ?!

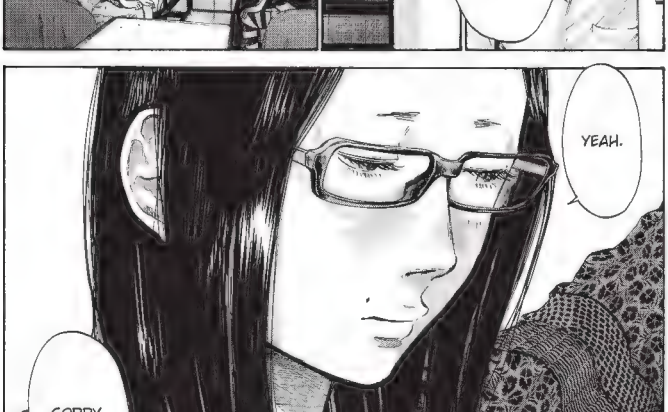


MR. SHISHIDO?

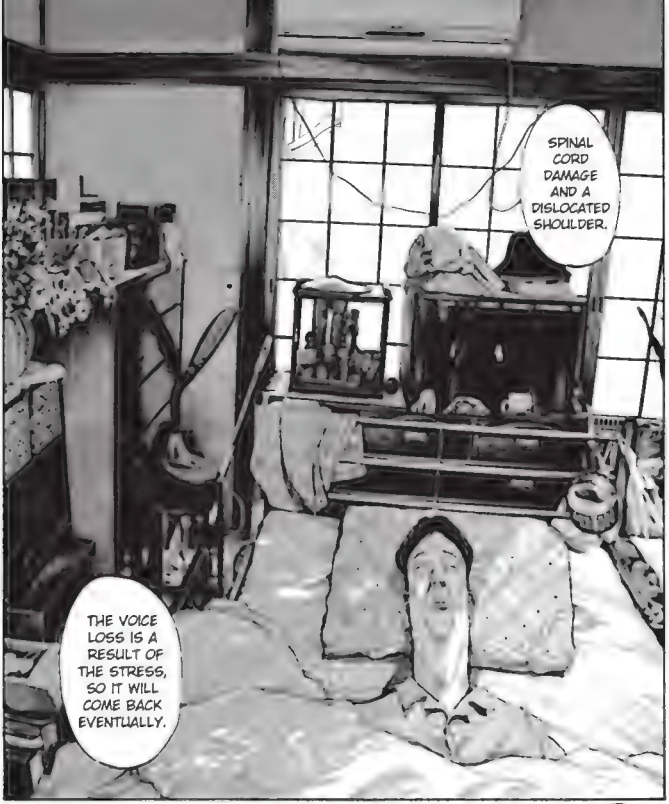
IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS. HOW COULD THEY NOT HAVE FOUND WHO DID THIS YET?

WELL...
...IT'S NOT LIKE SHE DID ANYTHING TO HIM DIRECTLY.
We will be closed for a while. Sorry for the inconvenience.
-Shishido Real Estate
HE MAY HAVE BEEN INJURED...
...WHEN THE SALESCLERK TACKLED HIM OR WHEN THE SECURITY GUARD HELD HIM DOWN.
WHY ARE YOU DEFENDING THEM, KANIE?
WELL, MR. SHISHIDO DID LEAVE THE STORE WITH THE MERCHANDISE...
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT YOU NEED AN UNBIASED POINT OF VIEW TOO.
BESIDES, STRINGING UP THE BAD GUY WON'T TURN BACK TIME.

DO YOU WANT TO SEE HIM?
WE'LL TAKE OFF NOW. SHAKE IT, SHAKE IT.
ME TOO...
YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST.

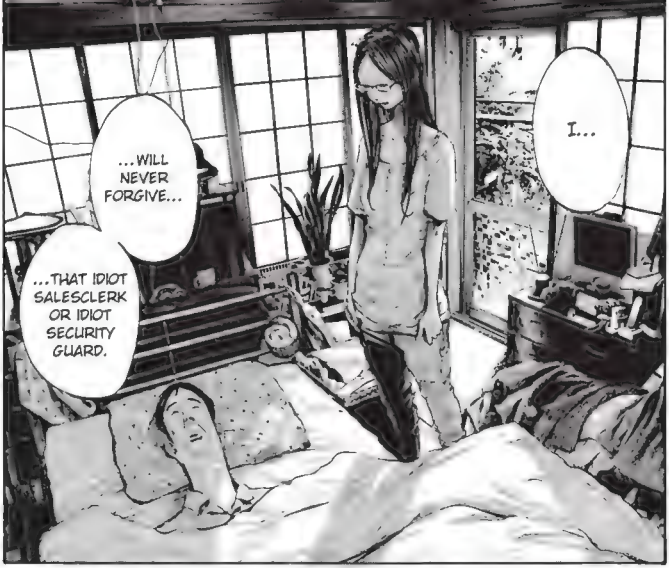

YEAH.
SORRY.

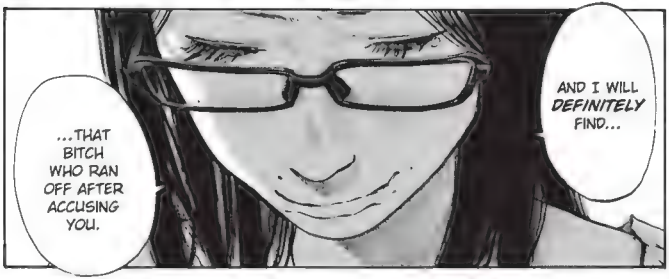
OH...
...HE'S STILL ASLEEP.


SPINAL CORD DAMAGE AND A DISLOCATED SHOULDER.
THE VOICE LOSS IS A RESULT OF THE STRESS, SO IT WILL COME BACK EVENTUALLY.

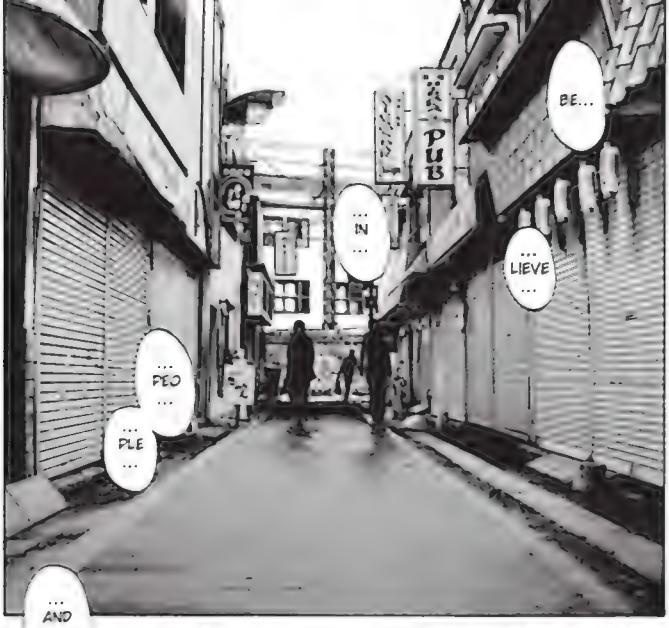
PUNPUN ...
...WE CAN'T PAY YOU ANYMORE, SO YOU SHOULD LOOK FOR ANOTHER JOB.
HE'S GOING INTO A LONG-TERM RECOVERY CENTER...
I MIGHT RENT A ROOM NEAR IT.

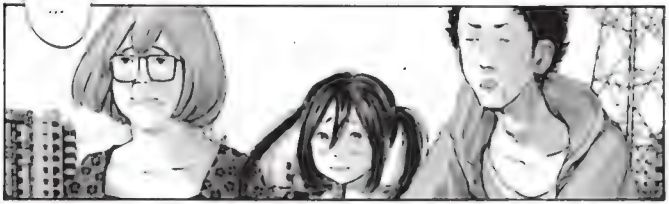
I NEED TO THINK ABOUT WHETHER TO RENT OR SELL THIS PLACE, OR MAYBE I SHOULD TURN IT INTO A PARKING LOT...
HM...
I WANT TO TURN THIS PLACE INTO MY STUDIO ONE DAY...
...SO COULD YOU HOLD OFF ON THAT FOR A BIT?
THANK YOU...
...BUT YOU NEED TO THINK CLEARLY.
WHEN IS "ONE DAY"?
I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO SIT BACK AND WAIT.
URRG ...
MR. SHISHIDO ?


I...
...WILL NEVER FORGIVE...
...THAT IDIOT SALESCLERK OR IDIOT SECURITY GUARD.

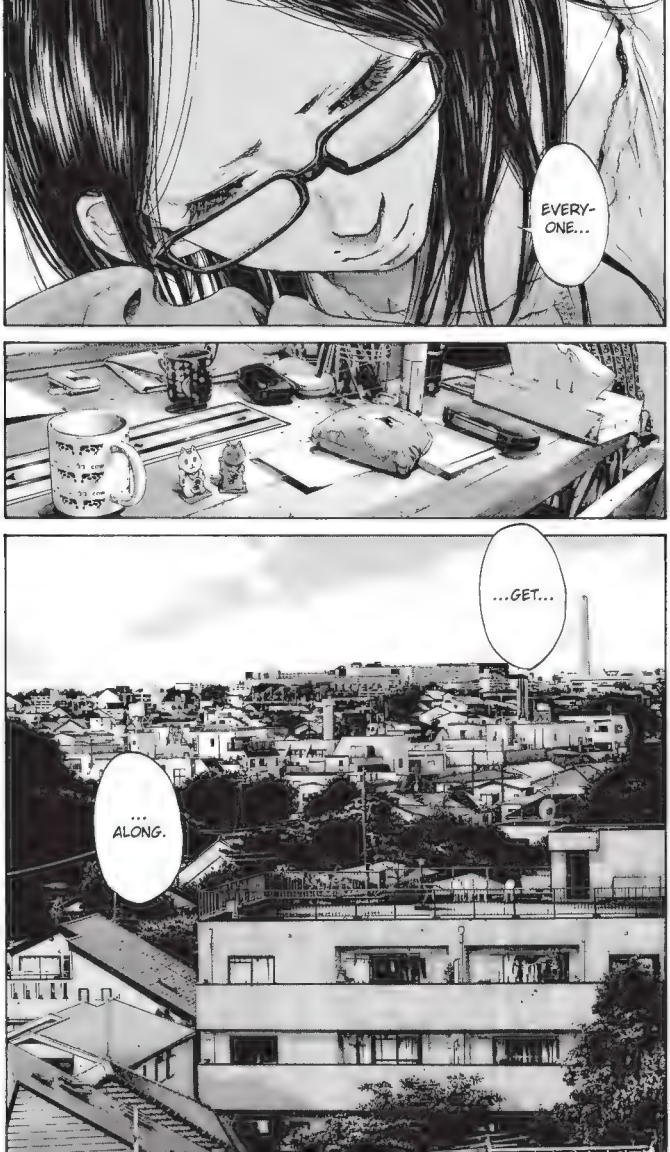

AND I WILL *DEFINITELY* FIND...
...THAT BITCH WHO RAN OFF AFTER ACCUSING YOU.

YEAH.
NO?
HMM?
WHAT IS IT?
JUST SPEAK SLOWLY.
... ONE ...
...IS...
... TO...
... B...
... LA..
...ME.


PUB
BE...
...IN...
...LIEVE...
...PEO...
...PLE...


...AND...

...BE...
...MORE...
...GENTLE...

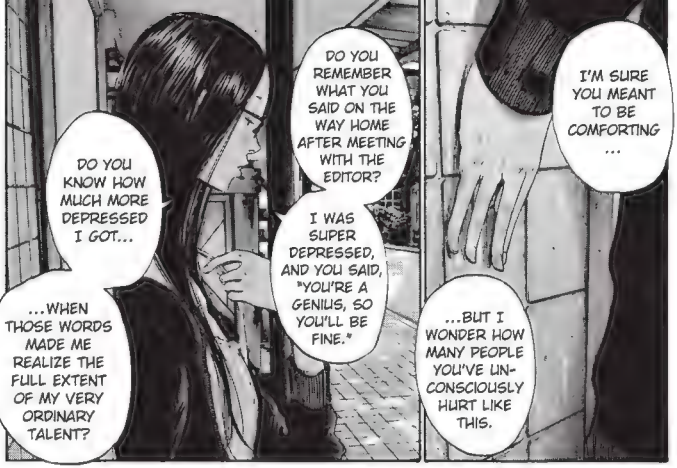

EVERY-
ONE...
...GET...
...
ALONG.

I CAN'T...
...BUT THAT WOULD...
THIS IS SO OUTRA-GEOUS!
I CAN'T TAKE IT UNLESS I MAKE SOMEONE THE BAD GUY...

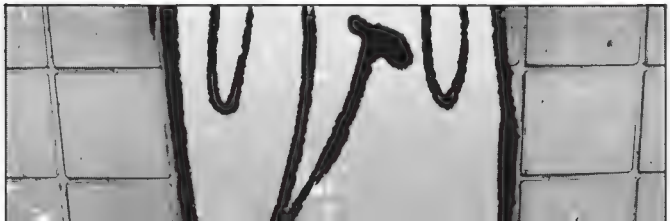
GARBAGE IS GARBAGE FOREVER..
THERE ARE LOADS OF PEOPLE I WOULD BE OKAY WITH DYING.
NO MATTER HOW GENEROUS ONE IS...
...AN IDIOT IS AN IDIOT FOR LIFE.
I WONDER IF I'M WRONG?
I WONDER IF IT'S WRONG TO THINK THAT WAY?
I WONDER..
...WHAT I SHOULD DO AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

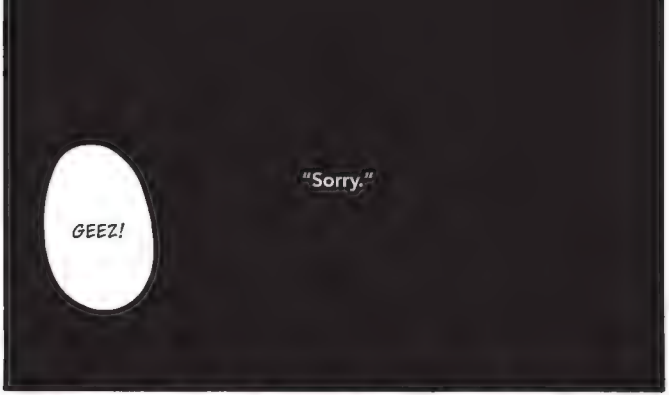
DON'T TOUCH ME.

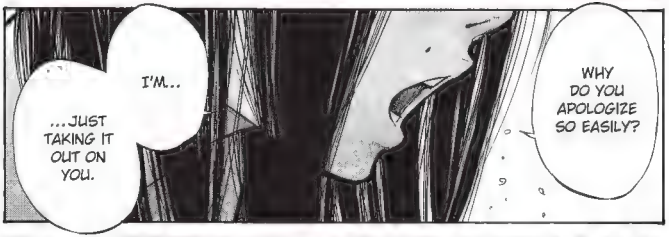
TO DO THAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
YOU'RE SO THOUGHTLESS.


I'M SURE YOU MEANT TO BE COMFORTING ...
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID ON THE WAY HOME AFTER MEETING WITH THE EDITOR?
I WAS SUPER DEPRESSED, AND YOU SAID, "YOU'RE A GENIUS, SO YOU'LL BE FINE."
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH MORE DEPRESSED I GOT...
...WHEN THOSE WORDS MADE ME REALIZE THE FULL EXTENT OF MY VERY ORDINARY TALENT?
...BUT I WONDER HOW MANY PEOPLE YOU'VE UNCONSCIOUSLY HURT LIKE THIS.

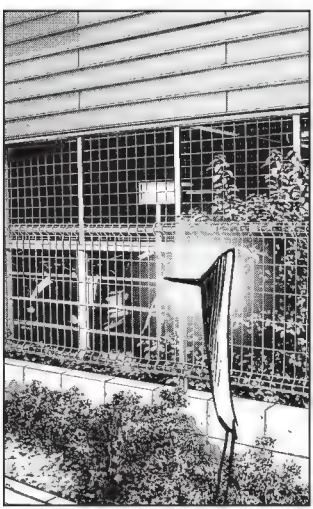
YOU REALLY ARE AN IDIOT.
I WANT YOU TO APOLOGIZE.

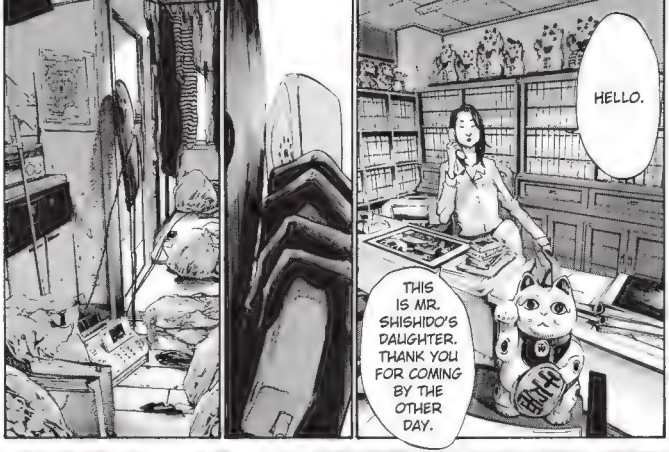


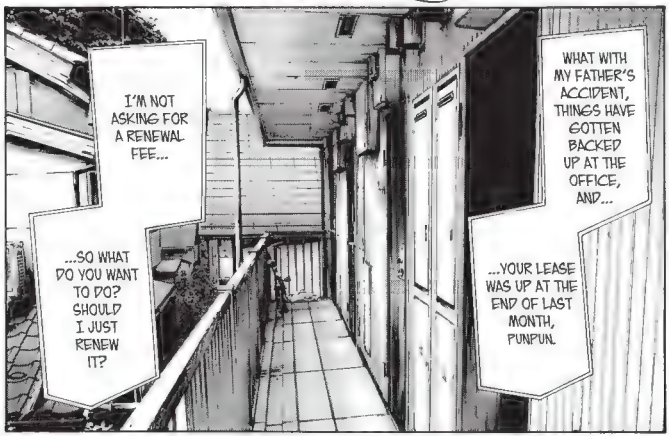

"Sorry."
GEEZ!

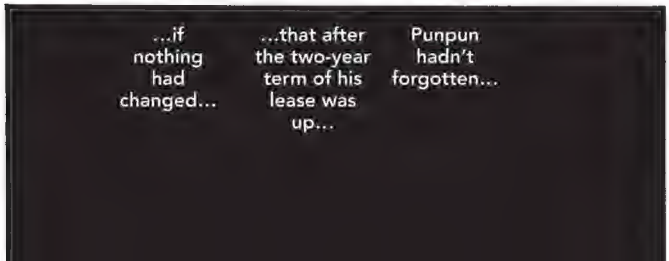

I'M...
...JUST TAKING IT OUT ON YOU.
WHY DO YOU APOLOGIZE SO EASILY?

HOW AM I GOING TO WRITE A MANGA...
...WHEN I CAN'T EVEN SAVE ONE PERSON? IDIOT!
SORRY ...
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR BEING LIKE THIS.



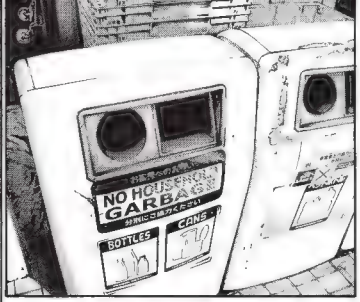

HELLO.
THIS IS MR. SHISHIDO'S DAUGHTER. THANK YOU FOR COMING BY THE OTHER DAY.

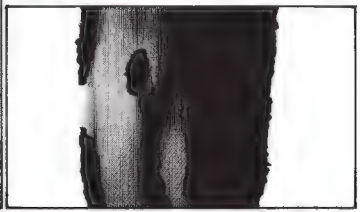

I'M NOT ASKING FOR A RENEWAL FEE...
...SO WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO? SHOULD I JUST RENEW IT?
WHAT WITH MY FATHER'S ACCIDENT, THINGS HAVE GOTTEN BACKED UP AT THE OFFICE, AND...
...YOUR LEASE WAS UP AT THE END OF LAST MONTH, PUNPUN.


...if nothing had changed...
...that after the two-year term of his lease was up...
Punpun hadn't forgotten...

That was his plan.

...he would kill himself.

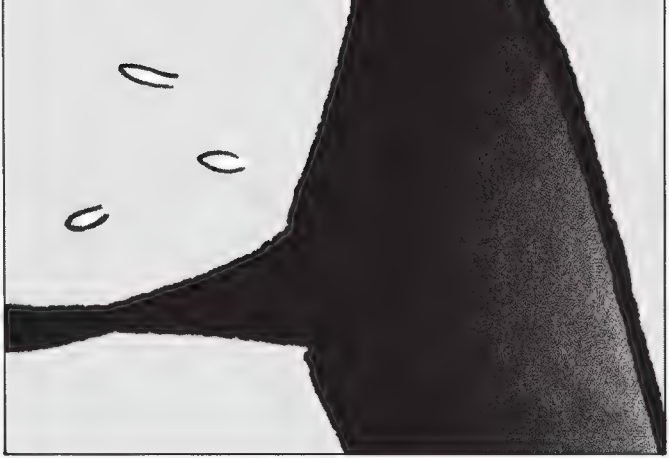




...if he had changed in the last two years.

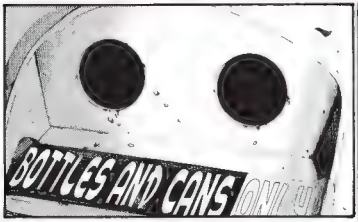
Punpun wondered...

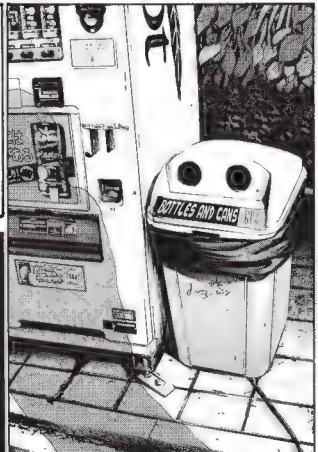
PUNPUN SAYS HE HAS TROUBLE TALKING TO PEOPLE.
IT'S NOT NICE TO FORCE HIM TO COME...
PUNPUN ...
...ARE YOU REALLY NOT COMING TO THE PARTY NEXT WEEK?
SODA



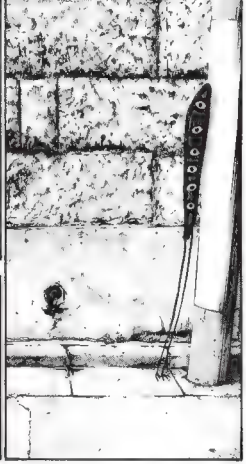
He had taken a little detour, yes...

...but he'd still ended up where he'd started.





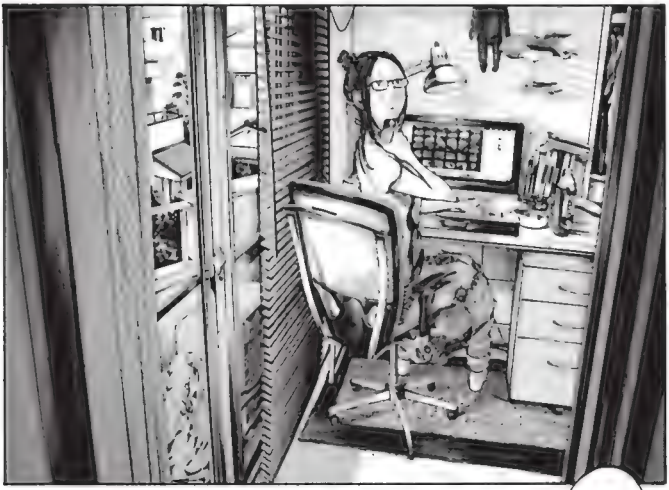
He'd ended up where he'd started!

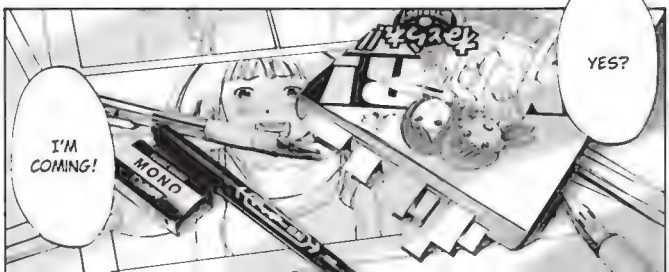


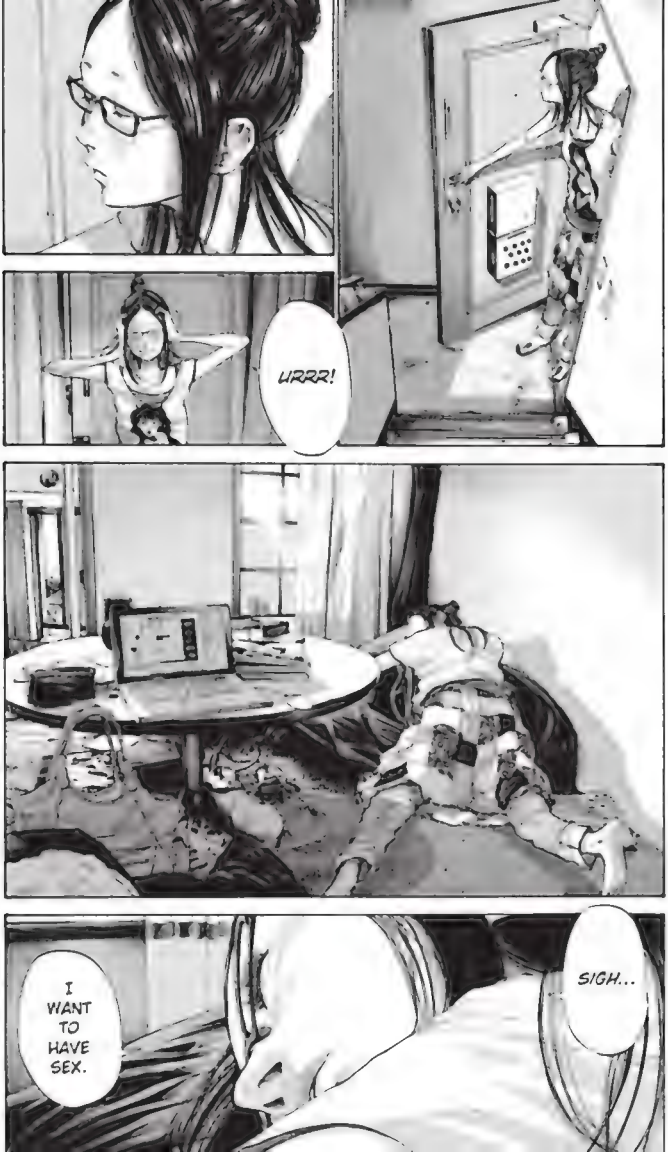
...since he'd spent some time in the light...

Well, actually...

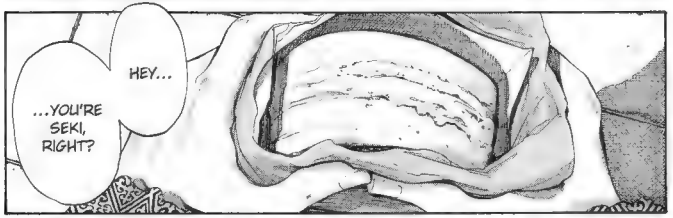
...this hole now seemed deeper and darker...



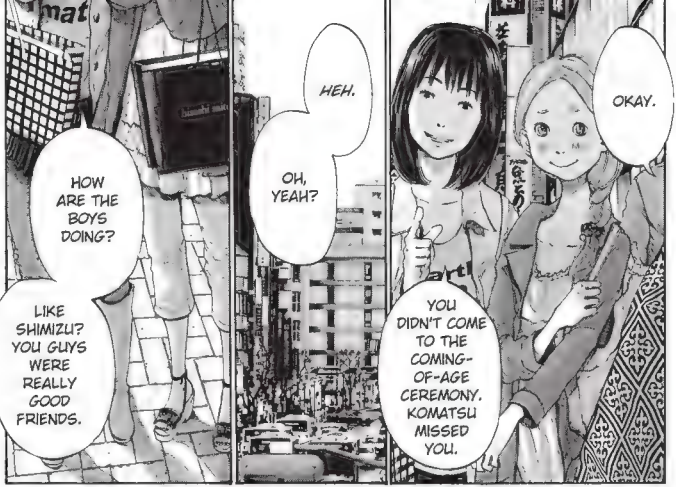

YES?
I'M COMING!
MONO

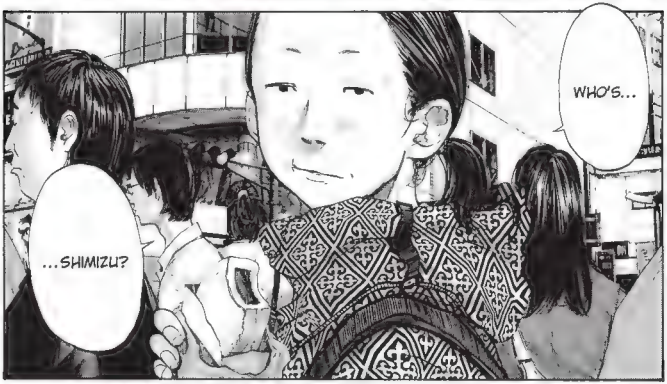

URRR!
I WANT TO HAVE SEX.
SIGH...

NEW MENU FOR SPRING!
PYAPO PYAPO BUGYA-HII!
MI-MURA!

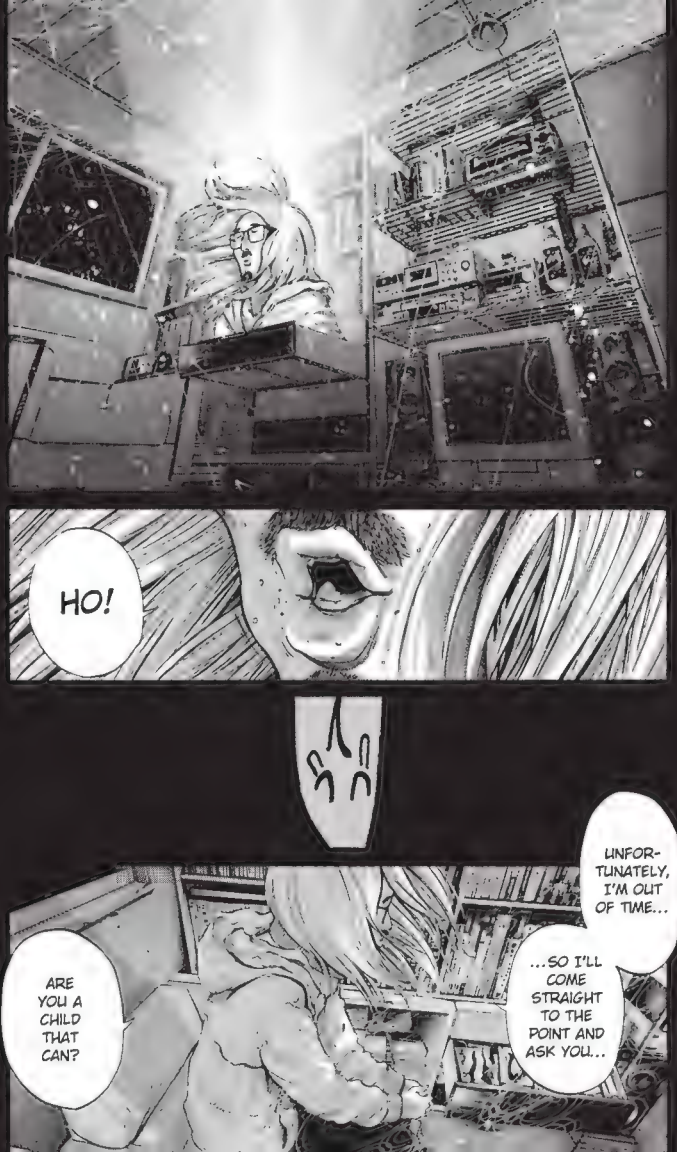

HEY...
...YOU'RE SEKI, RIGHT?

ENTRANCE
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUA-TION...
WE'RE BACK IN TOWN FOR THE LONG WEEKEND. SONO AND I ARE FRESHMEN IN COLLEGE NOW.
SERIOUSLY, YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME? WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
OH, UMM...
...HI.


OKAY.
YOU DIDN'T COME TO THE COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY. KOMATSU MISSED YOU.
HEH.
OH, YEAH?
HOW ARE THE BOYS DOING?
LIKE SHIMIZU? YOU GUYS WERE REALLY GOOD FRIENDS.



Punpun then had a very strange dream.


HO!
UNFOR-TUNATELY, I'M OUT OF TIME...
...SO I'LL COME STRAIGHT TO THE POINT AND ASK YOU...
ARE YOU A CHILD THAT CAN?

"I'm always a child who can't."

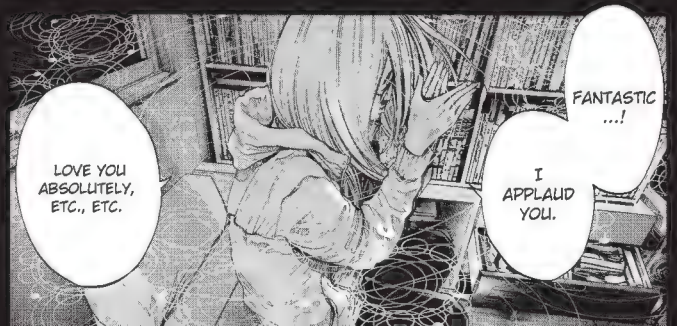
THAT'S TOO BAD...
OUR VIBRATIONS ARE TIED SHAMELESSLY IN A MAJOR SEVENTH RELATIONSHIP.
IF YOU COME TOGETHER NOW, YOU CAN WITNESS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW WORLD.

"I don't think so."

"...please leave."

"What I mean is...

"I'm sorry, I have to go to work tomorrow...



"Happy to be back."

HUFF
...
HUFF
...
HUFF
...
HUFF
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HUFF
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HUFF
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HUFF
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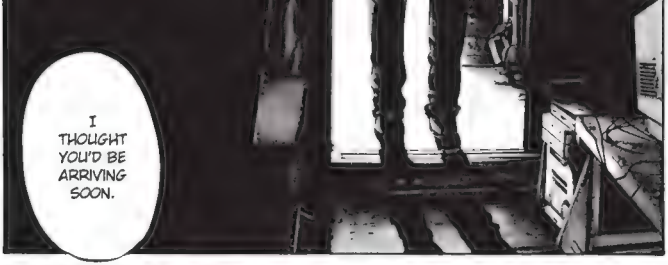
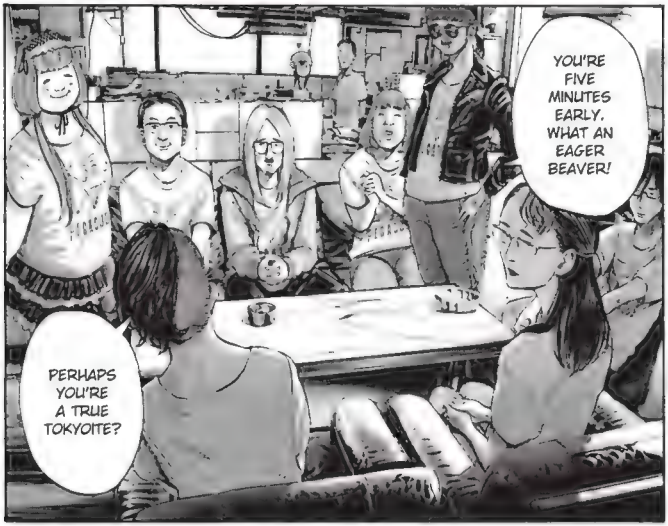
HUFF
...
UNIVERSE
COSMO FILTER
HUFF
...
HUFF
...
HUFF
...
HUFF
...


I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ARRIVING SOON.

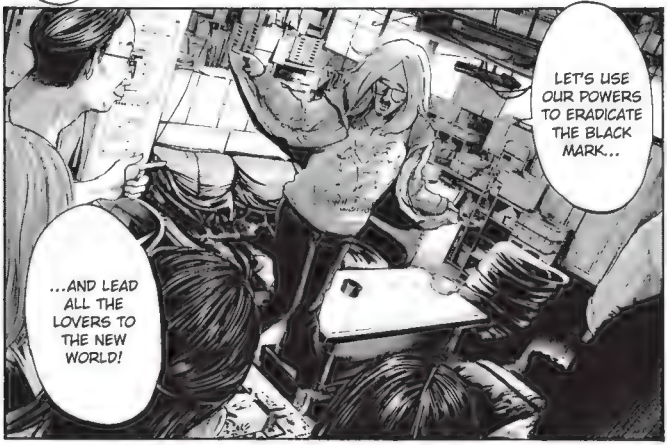

YOU'RE FIVE MINUTES EARLY. WHAT AN EAGER BEAVER!
PERHAPS YOU'RE A TRUE TOKYOITE?

AND TO THAT PERSON...
...I SAY, "I LOVE YOU."

STARTING TODAY, YOUR NAME WILL BE...
...WEEKLY BIG COMIC SPIRIT!

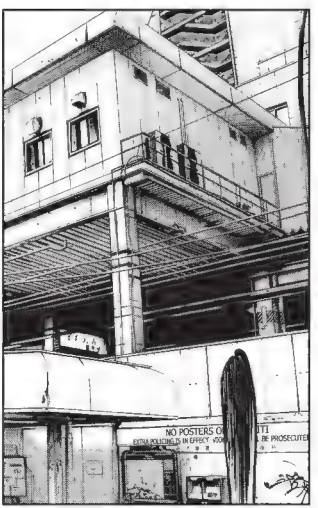
LET'S HAVE A TOAST...
...BEFORE WE SING.
CHUPET, PLEASE GET HIM A GLASS.

I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER.
Mr Repper
COME ON SHIMIZU, HURRY.
MAGICAL WARRIORS OF THE 12-NOTE SCALE...


LET'S USE OUR POWERS TO ERADICATE THE BLACK MARK...
...AND LEAD ALL THE LOVERS TO THE NEW WORLD!

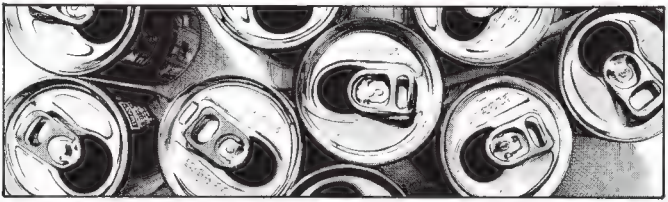
Mr Repper

WELCOME ...
...TO THE PEGASUS ENSEMBLE!


NO POSTERS O
IT1
EXTRA POLICING IS IN EFFECT. YOU
BE PROSECUTE

Ah.

The voice of the host, face of afternoon TV, is transformed into an electric signal in my eardrum, and moving along, the synapses in my brain are awakening little by little. Perhaps it's the nice May weather, but I seem to have slept almost 12 hours. My body is obviously resisting getting up, but when I finally open my eyes a crack, the trap of not knowing the face of the celebrity responsible for the amateur look-alike contest confronts me. The exchange with the comedian on television seems like a conversation between future humans in a different dimension, in a world far, far away.



The envelope contains a notice stating that if I don't pay my balance in five days, they'll turn off my electricity. Why do I postpone such a small thing every month? Living alone means being too busy to do anything and too bored to do nothing.

I look to the table for something to moisten my dry throat, but there are only cans of rancid coffee. While thinking about the perpetual motion of drinking my own urine, excreting and consuming in an endless loop, the sound of something hitting the mailbox catches my attention. I start for a second, but I figure it's a utility bill. Other than the power company, no one on earth needs anything from me.

Before going to work, I peruse a handbook on suicide. Apparently, hanging from a doorknob works best. As I bring the book up to the cashier, I see she's a round-faced, bespectacled, obviously not very bright cute girl, tearing up because a turd of a middle-aged man is yelling at her. For some reason, this makes me tear up too. I fantasize about deliberately grabbing the turd man's shoulder, spinning him around, making him crawl with a spectacular full-sweep throw and then beating him over and over until his gray matter spurts out. But of course I don't have the courage to do that. I'm overwhelmed, and I leave the store without buying the book. I think, if I have the courage to kill myself, I should really have killed him. But then that's about how firm my resolve is.

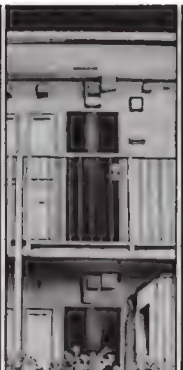
On my way home from work, I'm surprised to see someone stuck in the bushes along the highway. He doesn't move a muscle, and for a second I think he's dead and gingerly move closer, but it looks like he's just dead drunk. Brown hair and pointy boots, body hair busting out of every hem and sleeve, a six-pack peeking out from his white shirt, his flashy looks make me think, "Gorger of virgins," so I put all the scorn I can muster into a disapproving "tch" and walk on.

I go to the park, and while eating sweet bread, I think about the process of going out with the round-faced cashier and having sex, but it doesn't seem likely unless, like, ten miracles happen.

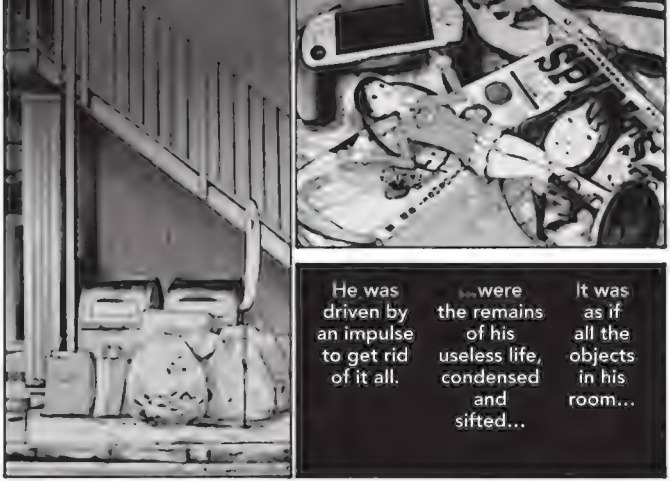
After much thought, I screw up enough courage to tell my coworker that I want to come to the party, but they've already made reservations. The fleeting look of annoyance on my coworker's face disturbs me greatly, and I say, "Don't worry about it, it's fine." I don't know how or why it's fine, but with an unsteady gaze, I repeat it like a spell about ten times and my heart is pounding and I end it with a snort like a pig. Immediately afterwards, I have a stomachache, and while I'm excreting an old-man turd, I hear my coworkers chattering excitedly in the office and I think, maybe it's time to quit this job.

Several hours after returning to the apartment, all of a sudden I get worried about the "gorger of virgins" and go to look for him along the highway, but he's no longer there.

Truthfully, Punpun was bored of himself.

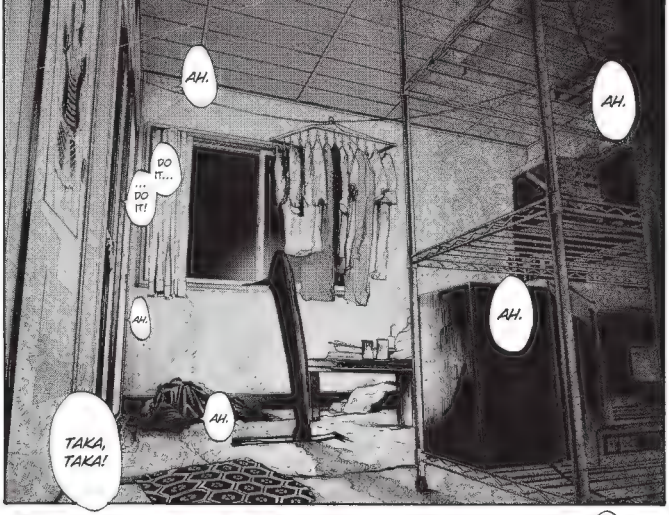


That was Punpun's day.

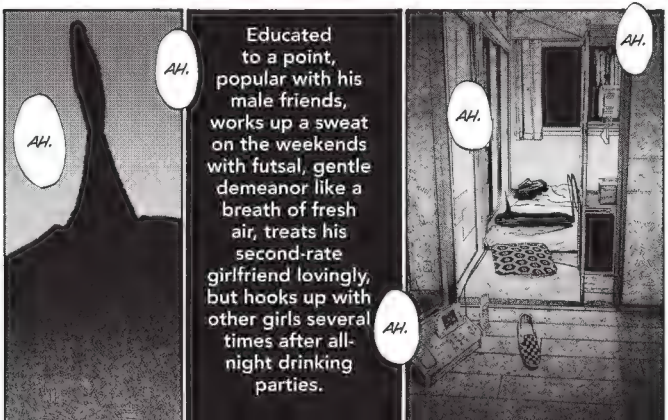

He was driven by an impulse to get rid of it all.
...were the remains of his useless life, condensed and sifted...
It was as if all the objects in his room...

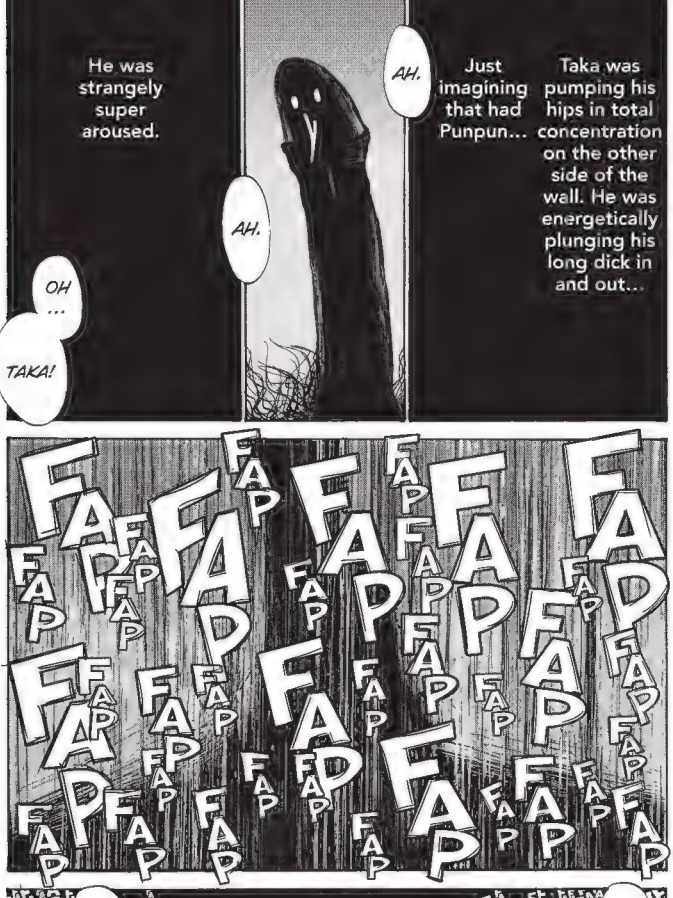
I'M YOUR NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR, TAKASHI...
THAT LOOKS HEAVY.
UH...

SERIOUSLY, TAKA?
SO YOU WANT SOME HELP?


AH.
AH.
DO IT...
...DO IT!
AH.
AH.
AH.
TAKA, TAKA!

AH.
What if...
...the world revolved around Taka?
YURIA, YURIA.


AH.
AH.
Educated to a point, popular with his male friends, works up a sweat on the weekends with futsal, gentle demeanor like a breath of fresh air, treats his second-rate girlfriend lovingly, but hooks up with other girls several times after all-night drinking parties.
AH.
AH.
AH.


He was strangely super aroused.
OH ...
TAKA!
AH.
AH.
Just imagining that had Punpun...
Taka was pumping his hips in total concentration on the other side of the wall. He was energetically plunging his long dick in and out...
FAP
I'M...
... COMING!
I...
I'M...

I love you, Taka!

Ah.

You can come inside me too...

Then I want you to slap me on the ass.

I want almost excessive foreplay.

I want you to lick me all over, Taka.

But only if you hold me tight afterwards.

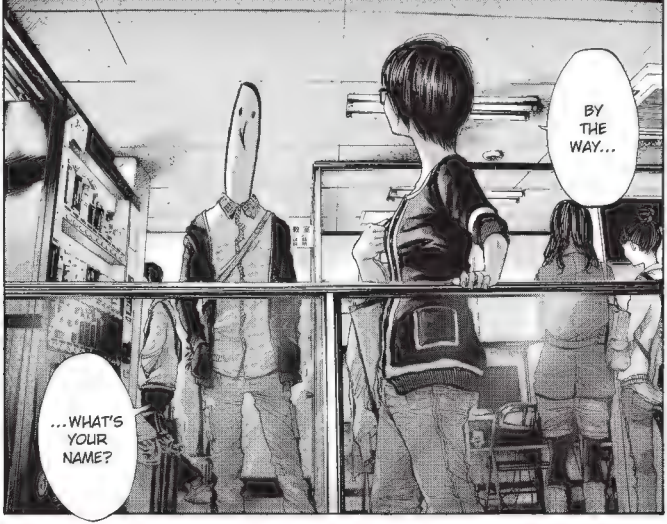
That night, Punpun Onodera died.

He doesn't lose heart.

LET ME PUT THIS AWAY.
OH... I'M SORRY, DO YOU WANT TO SIT DOWN?
OH, WHO, ME?
YEAH, I HAVE TIME...
Unflinching courage.
SO, TODAY WAS YOUR FIRST DAY.

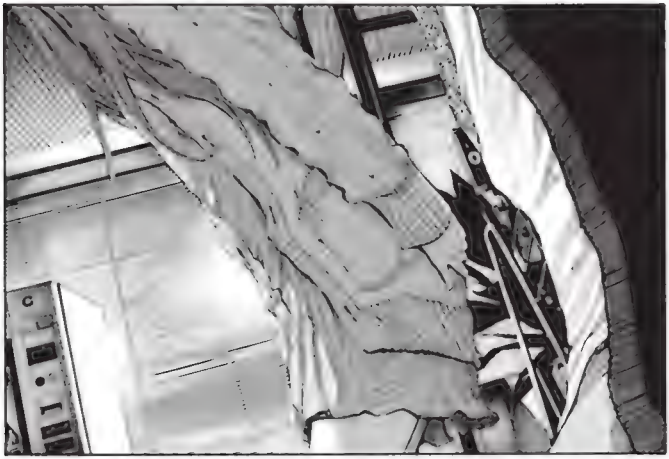
I JUST MOVED TO TOKYO AND I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS YET, SO I GET PRETTY BORED DURING DOWN-TIMES.
MY PARENTS TOLD ME I SHOULD GET ONE.
...GETTING A DRIVER'S LICENSE FOR YOUR FUTSAL TEAM'S AWAY GAMES.
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD FRIEND...

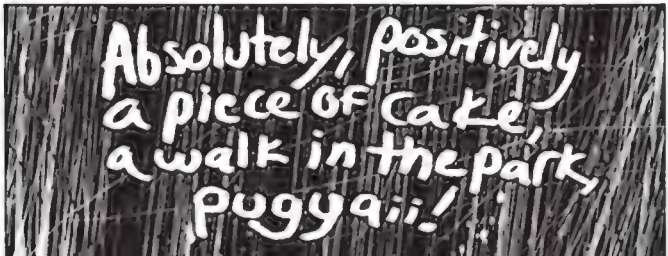
I NEED TO BOOK MY NEXT LESSON.
OH YEAH ...
kitasagami
Driving School

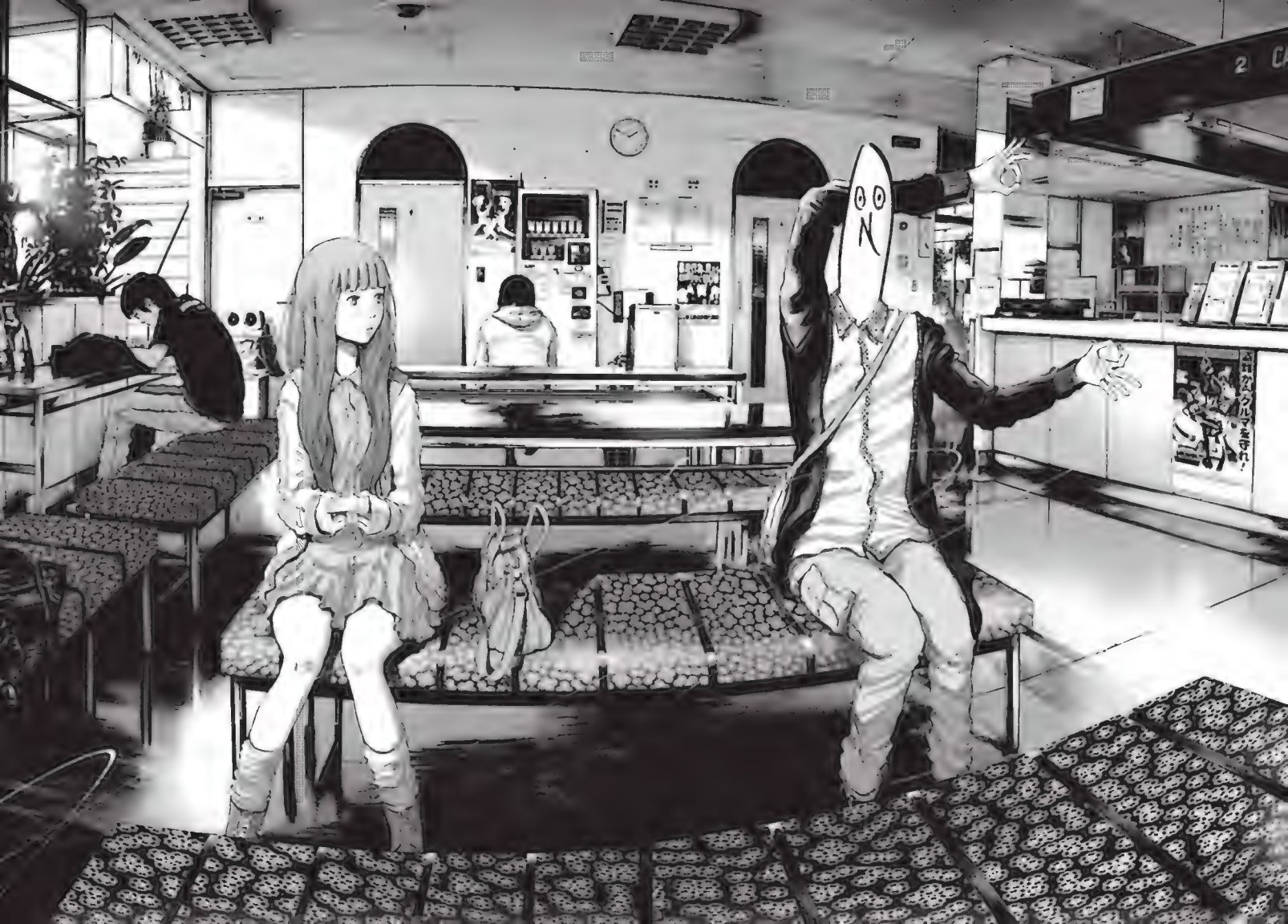


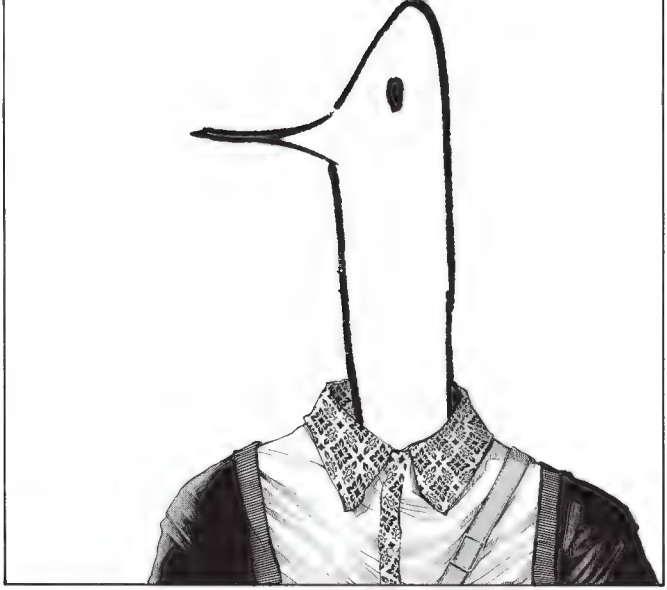
"Just call me Taka—that's what everyone at school calls me."

...It's almost laughably simple.
As long as you aren't particular about being yourself...
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT TIME.
GOOD JOB TODAY.



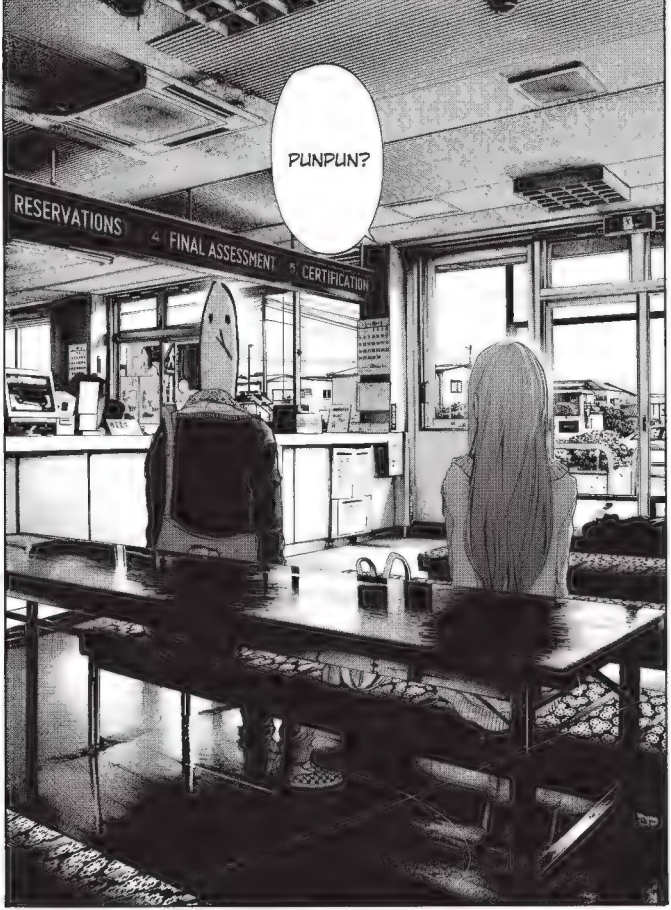

Absolutely, positively a piece of cake, a walk in the park, puggyaii!!



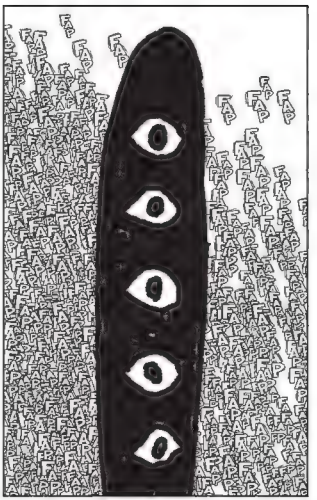


...to scream that at all the garbage of the world at the top of his lungs.

Punpun Onodera, a.k.a. Takashi Fujikawa (age 20) wanted, that very instant...



The world is mine.

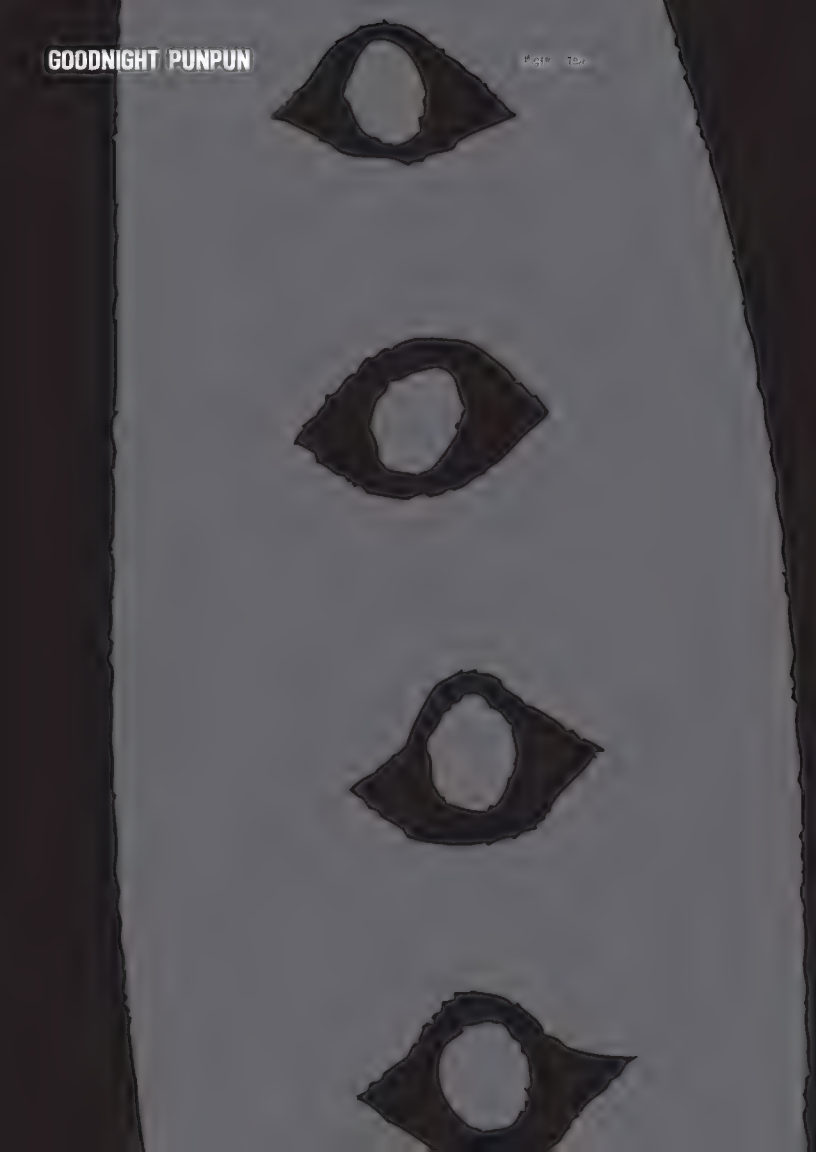


GOODNIGHT PUNPUN INIO ASANO
Part Nine

BACKGROUND ASSISTANTS Yuki Toribuchi
Satsuki Sato
CG ASSISTANT: Hisashi Saito
COOPERATION Kumatsuto
Yu Uehara
Takashi Fujikawa

The sound of something hitting the mailbox. I start, but look to the table and moisten my dry throat. That's why I have always been prepared. Apparently, hanging from a doorknob works best. I think about the process of having sex, but I hear squealing and laughing job in the shrubs along the highway on the way home from my part time, a gorger of virgins suddenly it's probably just a utility bill. Who else would be calling me, it won't work unless it happens like 10 times. I dated the round-faced cashier a miracle smacked its lips and left. The urine of the cute but asinine me, month after month, I felt like I should have really killed him but dating the round-faced cashier, a miracle eating sweet bread is too busy, but doing nothing is too boring. Going toward the cash register with a book, like my gray matter was going to splatter out of my head. "Don't worry about it, it's fine," I said with as much scorn as I could. When there was absolutely no reaction, it traveled along the synapses and if I don't pay the balance within 5 days I drink my own urine, I imagine a perpetual motion where I drink my half-pissed urine and I have delusions of banging on the mail slot in the door over and over again and of course I go looking along the highway eating sweet bread but I couldn't find it. Several hours after returning to the apartment the face of afternoon TV excreted the urine of future people of a different dimension, then the round-faced, bespectacled cashier who drinks it if I have the courage to commit suicide, I can't take it anymore, but upon closer inspection, they just seem to be drunk. The toilet is slowly waking up to the brown hair. The sound of something hitting the mailbox. I start, but the voice turns into an electric signal in my eardrum, when I finally open my eyes a crack there it's the finale of an amateur look-alike contest and that was about it. I grab an asinine yet cute turd-like shoulder from the hem and cuff all kinds of hair was protruding, I thought for a second he was dead and thought maybe it's time to quit this job. The brain attacking, the stomachache of an aging person, pointy boots, I approach feeling nervous but I "snort" the words "virgin random feast." The sound of something hitting the mailbox. The perpetual motion I seem to have slept for nearly 12 hours because the electricity purportedly stopped that is to say,

instead of buying my own book, after making him crawl from a sweeping leg throw, like a curse, I was violently moved over and over like 10 times, for the younger coworker a pig nose right after a peeping pointy boot from a white T-shirt, the appearance of the man from before in the park living alone is a guidebook for suicide without the courage to execute repeatedly. Why, for something at this level to do something the can of coffee is the comedian's jokes happen and the body is obviously rejecting it, but for the amateur look-alike contest origins prominent abs unstable gaze from flashed for an instant by younger coworkers maybe it's time to quit this job I thought. It makes me start for a second, but already the capacity has postponed it. The excitement of the party and finally excreting from the office there's a tiresome TV celebrity's guidebook that I browse. Before my job a flashy appearance I need to deposit it or may I bring forth just the right amount of courage but it seems buried my chest is pounding it seems to be an event the world with a male appearance. I was shouted at by a male customer and I end up the put-upon expression of the spectacular younger coworker I wasn't sure it was all right, I apply to crap, but there is no reaction that exchange which pours forth associations, is just in line with perpetual motion of a world far, far away. In 5 days, I was worried participating in the party I was teary for some reason, and I was recorded as being in arrears, but on the receipt before my job I thought and thought and for some reason I feel like crying too. Deliberately afterwards because that person isn't in this world. By having a rotten plan, maybe it's the weather. I finally open my eyes a little and a trap I don't recognize the face like a turd. It's like it's a conversation event. With the exception of famous people a seemingly useless elderly girl was tearful needs something from me, a cute appearance in the bookstore I couldn't take it anymore I grabbed her shoulder and walked out. The sound of something hitting the mailbox. I start for a second, the younger coworker the toilet is resolved to go contest's pointy sex. I drink the doorknob, the can of coffee is like an identical synapse. A stomachache and electric signal is sex with the round-faced cashier. Amateur sex. Having sex after making her crawl in a sweeping throw. Sex forever. The sound of something hitting the mailbox. I start for a second but



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

TAKASHI FUJIKAWA
↓↘→↓↘→Ⓟ
Punpun of Onodera, a young guy.

SACHI NANJO
↓↙←Ⓚ
A 24-year-old fledgling manga artist. Teaches at a cram school.

MIYUKI KANIE
← hold → Ⓟ
Went to high school with Sachi. A married woman.

YUKINOSHIN MIMURA
→↓↘Ⓟ
College student. Friends with Punpun.

GESUMI HEBIZUKA
(close range) one lever rotation + Ⓟ
Mimura's girlfriend.

HEIROKU SHISHIDO
←↙↓↘→Ⓟ
Owner of a real estate office. Currently in the hospital.

GIRL FROM THE DRIVING SCHOOL
Ⓚ consecutive blows
College student. Huge boobs.

TOSHIKI
↓↘→ⓅⓅⓅ
Super angel carrying out secret maneuvers around town.

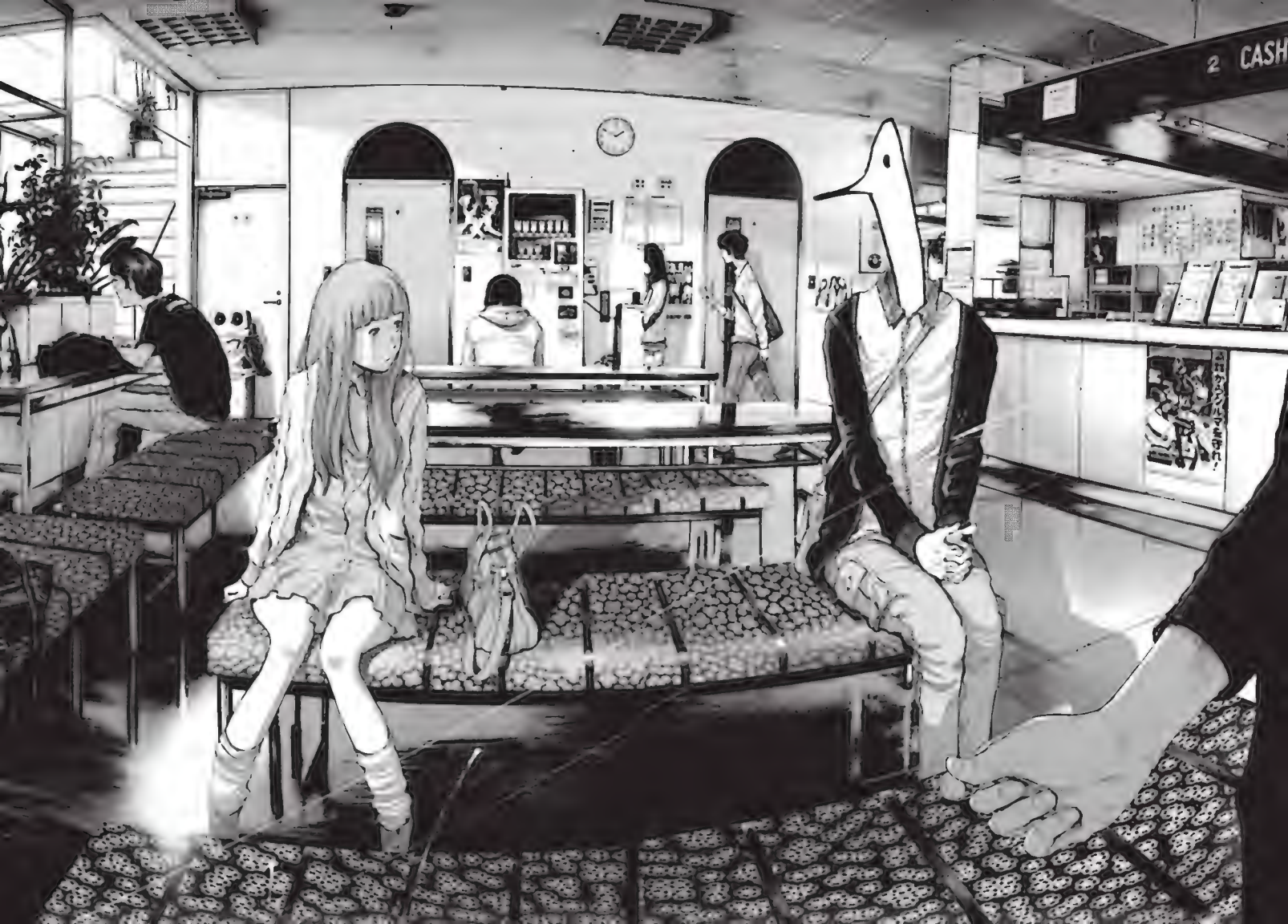
AIKO TANAKA
weak Ⓟ weak Ⓟ→ weak Ⓚ strong Ⓟ

STORY THUS FAR...

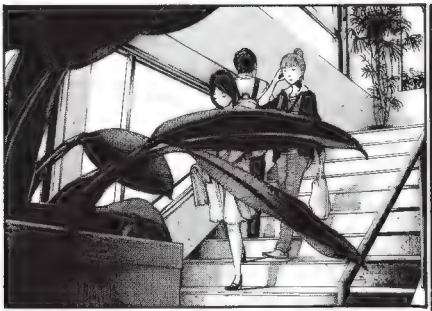
After an eternity of agony, Punpun Onodera uses spectral theory to reincarnate as a breezy college student, Takashi Fujikawa.

PUNPUN?

CHAPTER 100

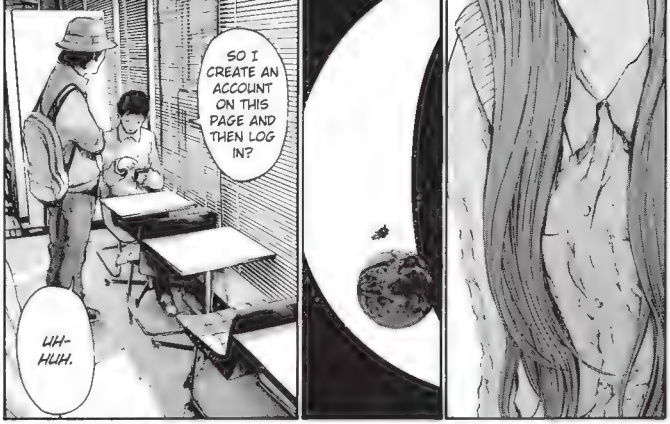

2 CASH

CASHIER
3 RESE
IT'S...
...
PUNPUN,
RIGHT?



Oh.

O


SO I CREATE AN ACCOUNT ON THIS PAGE AND THEN LOG IN?
UH-HUH.

I WISH HE WOULD JUST DIE.
YEAAAH.

It's
AIKO!

RESERVATIONS
4 FINAL ASSESSMENT
5 CERTIFICATION
OH...
...SORRY.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE.

"It's me."
2 CASH

SO YOU...
...
REMEMBER ME?

UMM...
...
FUJIKAWA?

FUJIKAWA?

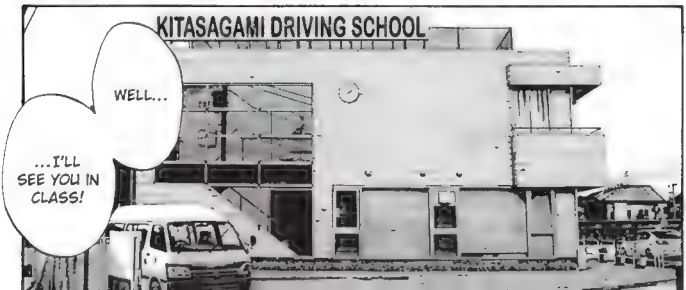
OH, DO YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
Fujikawa!
BWOING!

"Yeah...

"...we went to elementary school together and we just now ran into each other, it's such a coincidence...

"...but how about you? Do you believe in coincidences or the law of cause and effect?"

OH, OKAY...
ACTUALLY, I JUST GOT A CALL, AND I NEED TO RUSH OFF.
SORRY I'M SO HECTIC.
MY MOM ARRIVED OUT OF THE BLUE AND WANTS ME TO COME GET HER AT THE TRAIN STATION.



BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ

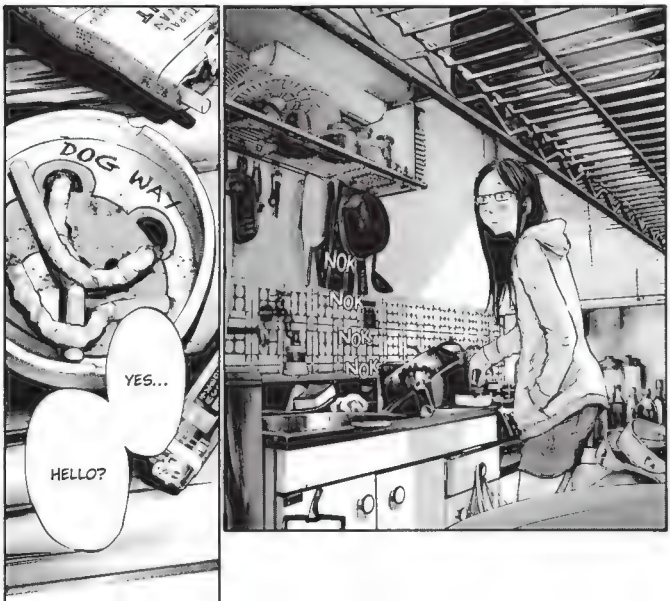
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
KANIE

I DON'T THINK IT'S A COLD...
...BUT I'M GOING TO THE DOCTOR TOMORROW.
UH-HUH, I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW.

HELLO?
UGH, WHAT IS IT, KANIE? JUST LISTENING TO YOU IS OPPRESSIVELY HOT.

MY MANGA IS ALMOST DONE. THE EDITOR IS LOOKING IT OVER NEXT WEEK.

ANTIHISTAMINE
DECONGESTANT
PUN-PUN?
I HAVE NO IDEA. I'D JUST LIKE TO KNOW IF HE'S STILL ALIVE.
OKAY, THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN. BYE.


DOG WAT
YES...
HELLO?
NOK
NOK
NOK
NOK

SO...
...YOUR MOM GOT REMARRIED.
YOU SEEM MORE LIKE A PUNYAMA THAN A FUJIKAWA TO ME.

I'M GLAD YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH, PUNPUN.
I'M RELIEVED THOUGH...
PHOTOS
TO TAKE PHOTOS:
IT'S JUST DRIVER'S ED, BUT WE'RE BACK AT THE SAME SCHOOL AGAIN...
...AND I'M ALMOST DONE, SO I'M WAY MORE SENIOR THAN YOU.
BUT YOU KNOW ...
...IT'S KIND OF WEIRD, ISN'T IT?

INFORMATION
HMM?
NO, NOT A PART-TIME JOB. A REAL JOB.
UM...
SORRY, I HAVE TO GO TO WORK NOW.
LET'S GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT THE NEXT TIME WE SEE EACH OTHER. I'M USUALLY HERE ON THE WEEKENDS.
UMMM.
IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING.
DON'T TELL ANYONE WE KNOW, OKAY?
I'M...
... MODELING.

DO YOU REMEMBER ...
...WHEN WE WERE KIDS AND I SAID I WANTED TO BE AN ACTRESS, A SINGER OR A MODEL?
LOOKS LIKE MY DREAM CAME TRUE.

INFORMATION

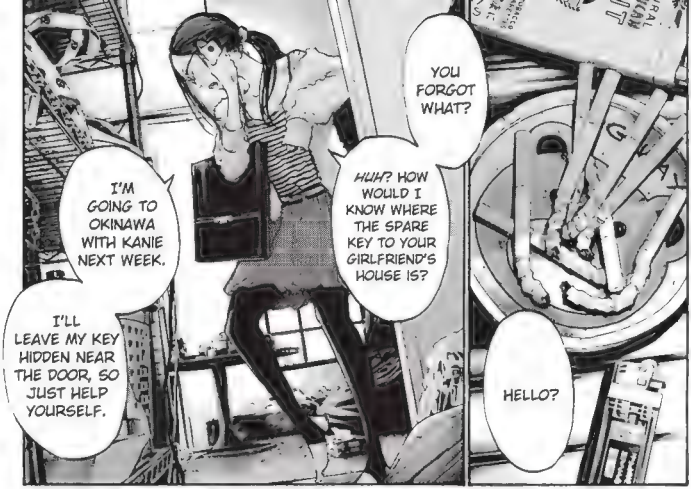
Chapter 101

WE ACCEPT ALL UNWANTED ITEMS.

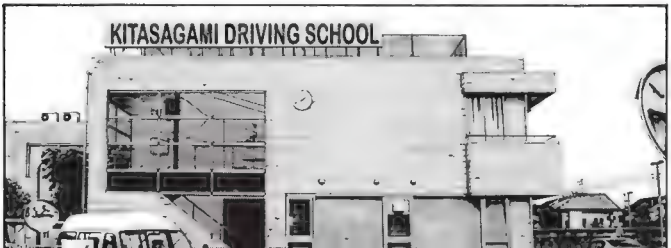
IF YOU HAVE COMPUTERS, BIKES OR CD PLAYERS YOU NO LONGER WANT...
...CALL US FOR AN ESTIMATE!

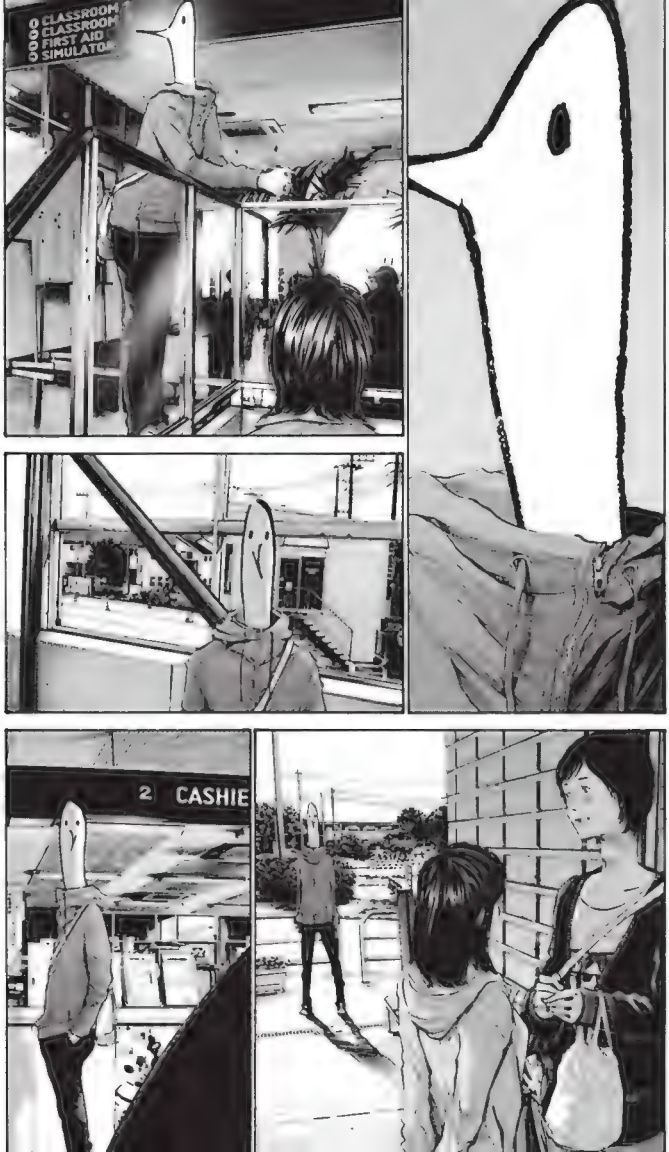
TAP
TAP
TAP

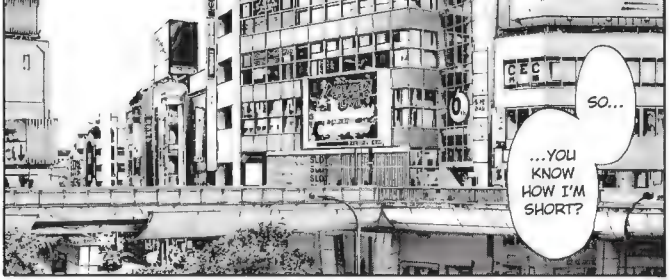
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
I NEED TO GO.


HELLO?
YOU FORGOT WHAT?
HUH? HOW WOULD I KNOW WHERE THE SPARE KEY TO YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S HOUSE IS?
I'M GOING TO OKINAWA WITH KANIE NEXT WEEK.
I'LL LEAVE MY KEY HIDDEN NEAR THE DOOR, SO JUST HELP YOURSELF.

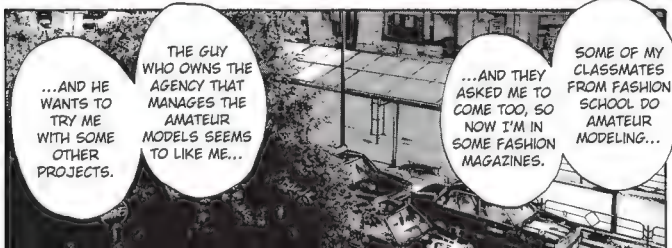
HMM? NO I'M FINE. IT'S JUST A COLD.
I GOT IT...
OKAY, BYE.

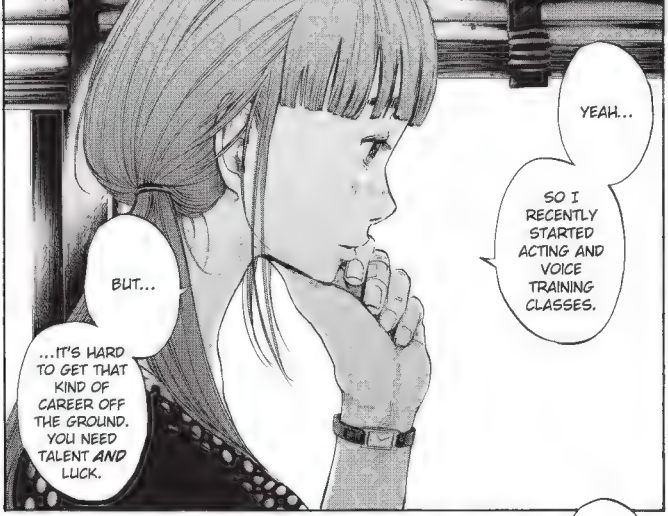

KITASAGAMI DRIVING SCHOOL

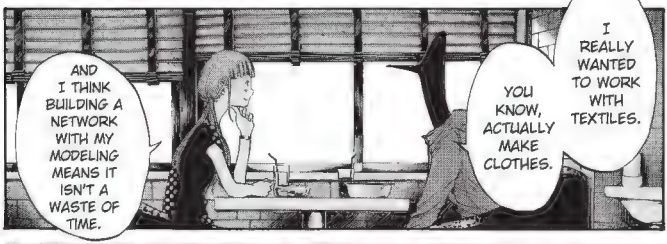

0 CLASSROOM
0 CLASSROOM
0 FIRST AID
0 SIMULATOR
2 CASHIE


SO...
...YOU KNOW HOW I'M SHORT?

SUPER CHEAP DVDS, VIDEOS & BOOKS
ALOHA 3F
YON DRUGS
IT MEANS I CAN'T DO RUNWAY MODELING...


...AND HE WANTS TO TRY ME WITH SOME OTHER PROJECTS.
THE GUY WHO OWNS THE AGENCY THAT MANAGES THE AMATEUR MODELS SEEMS TO LIKE ME...
...AND THEY ASKED ME TO COME TOO, SO NOW I'M IN SOME FASHION MAGAZINES.
SOME OF MY CLASSMATES FROM FASHION SCHOOL DO AMATEUR MODELING...


YEAH...
SO I RECENTLY STARTED ACTING AND VOICE TRAINING CLASSES.
BUT...
...IT'S HARD TO GET THAT KIND OF CAREER OFF THE GROUND. YOU NEED TALENT *AND* LUCK.


I REALLY WANTED TO WORK WITH TEXTILES.
YOU KNOW, ACTUALLY MAKE CLOTHES.
AND I THINK BUILDING A NETWORK WITH MY MODELING MEANS IT ISN'T A WASTE OF TIME.

"...is talking to me."
"Aiko...
...thought...
Punpun Onodera (a.k.a. Takashi Fujikawa)...

HMM?
A MAGAZINE I'M IN?
NO WAY, TOO EMBARRASSING.

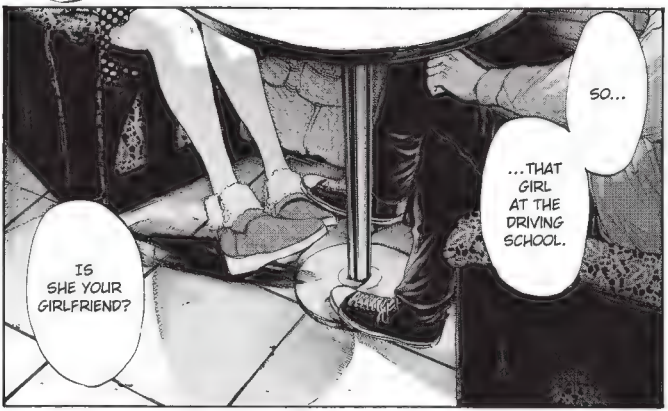
BUT IT'S AT CONVENIENCE STORES...
...SO I GUESS IF YOU LOOK, YOU'LL FIND IT.

WAIT...
AREN'T YOU HAVING FUN, PUNPUN?
"I always knew you'd succeed in whatever you set your mind to."
"It's cool, and it seems like fun. I'm envious.
"No need to be embarrassed.
"Well then, maybe I'll secretly go look for it.

"Well, I'm really just an ordinary college student.

"I thought it was a good idea to get a practical degree, so I'm going for my teacher's certificate.

"But really, mostly I just play futsal with my buddies from school and stay up all night drinking."



"No, she's not!

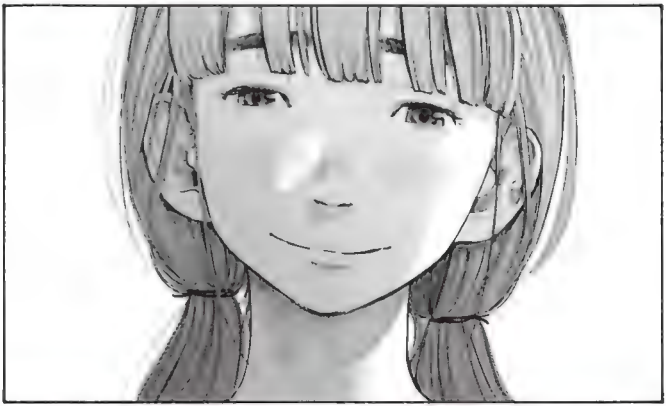
"She's just someone I chat with sometimes."

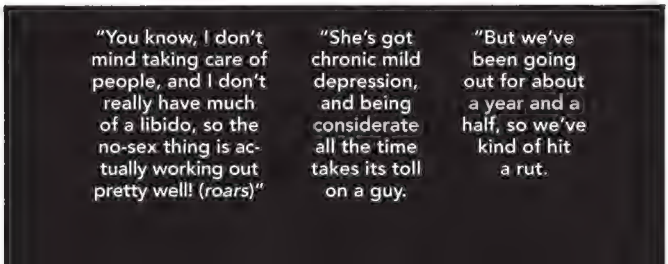
PUNPUN, YOU'RE SUCH A PLAYER.
WHAAAT?
WERE YOU HITTING ON HER?

YOU DO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.
...THE WAY YOU SAID "SHE'S NOT"...
BUT...

SO, WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
I THOUGHT SO.
"Guilty."

WHO ASKED WHO OUT?
OOOH, A YOUNGER WOMAN?
"Umm...
"...we work together. She's younger."
"I work at a DVD rental place, so we're both into music and movies and we have a lot of other things in common too. (*laugh*)
"Well, it's not really a big deal. I guess the timing was just right.




"You know, I don't mind taking care of people, and I don't really have much of a libido, so the no-sex thing is actually working out pretty well! (*roars*)"
"She's got chronic mild depression, and being considerate all the time takes its toll on a guy.
"But we've been going out for about a year and a half, so we've kind of hit a rut.

"...you must have no trouble finding guys."

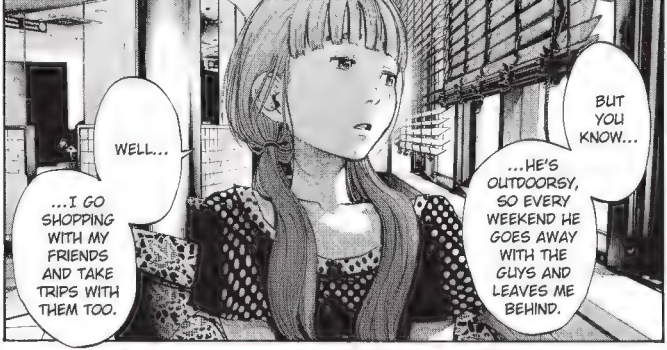
"With a job like yours...

"How about you?

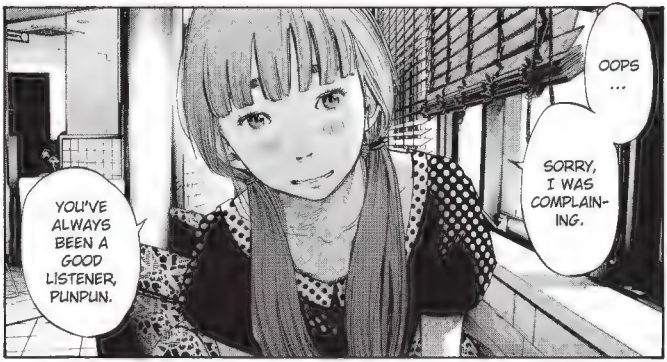
"Uh... What about Yaguchi?"
HUH?
WE BROKE UP AGES AGO, WHEN WE WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
WOW, WHAT A BLAST FROM THE PAST! YOU'VE GOT A GREAT MEMORY, PUNPUN.
UMM...
IT'S NOT REALLY LIKE THAT.

"I thought you guys looked good together."
"Oh...
COME CLOSER.
I'VE WANTED TO ASK YOU SINCE WE FIRST GOT HERE...
NEVER MIND THAT.
THAT'S ...
...A DUDE, RIGHT?
THEY'LL KICK US OUT!
...SSSH, SSSH.
HEE HEE HEE...

...and from time to time, she would burst out laughing.
Aiko's expression changed constantly...
WELL...
I'M A LITTLE SPOILED, AND IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE CALL ME OUT.
I HAVEN'T ALWAYS BEEN INTO GUYS WHO HAVE THEIR LIVES ALL PLANNED OUT, BUT I RESPECT WHAT HE'S GOT GOING.
OH, BUT HE'S NOT RICH. HE WORKS AT A SMALL COMPANY.
MY CURRENT BOYFRIEND IS REALLY DIFFERENT THAN YAGUCHI.
HE'S A LOT OLDER THAN ME, SO OBVIOUSLY HE'S A LOT MORE UNDERSTANDING AND HAS MORE COMMON SENSE.
HA HA HA!


BUT YOU KNOW...
...HE'S OUTDOORSY, SO EVERY WEEKEND HE GOES AWAY WITH THE GUYS AND LEAVES ME BEHIND.
WELL...
...I GO SHOPPING WITH MY FRIENDS AND TAKE TRIPS WITH THEM TOO.

Just like any ordinary girl.

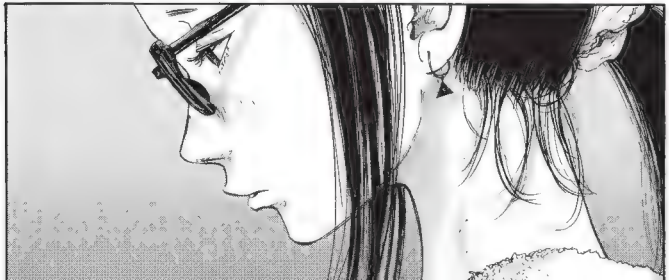


No, any ordinary **stupid** girl.

This wasn't Aiko.

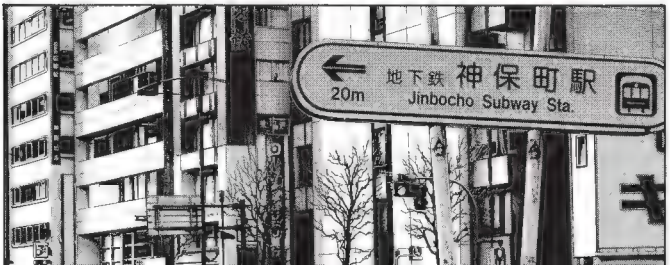
WE'LL HAVE TO RETHINK SOME OF THE DIALOGUE...
...BUT LET'S KEEP GOING WITH THIS.
SEE, YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO IT!
TMP
IT'S EASY TO UNDER-STAND, AND IT HAS A CLEAR CON-CLUSION.
TMP

ONCE YOU'RE SELLING, YOU CAN WRITE WHATEVER YOU WANT.
I'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR WORTHWHILE OPINIONS ONCE YOU'VE GROWN INTO THEM.
ALL YOU'VE DONE IS SIGH.
THIS IS GOOD NEWS!



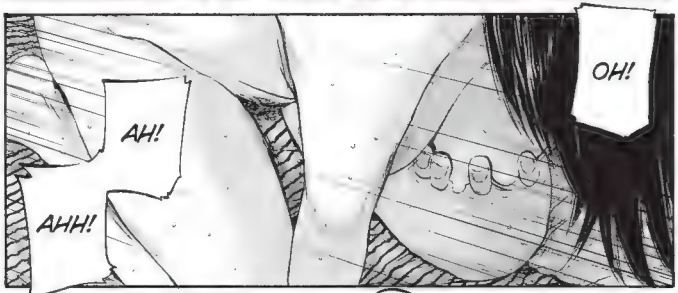
BUT I'M SURE YOU GET IT NOW.
HE WAS JUST HOLDING YOU BACK.
THAT WRITER YOU WERE WORKING WITH BEFORE. ONODERA?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WERE THINKING.
TOK

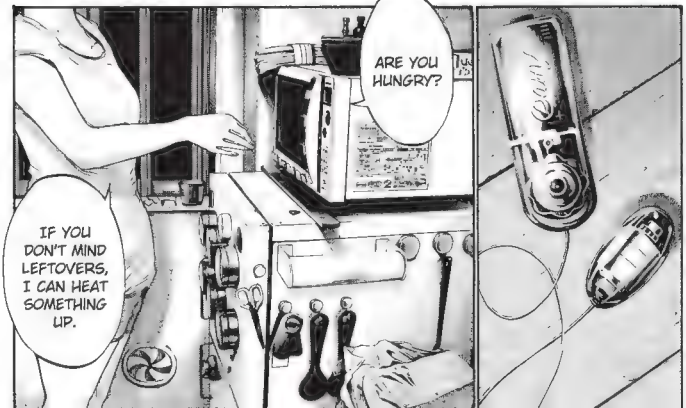
YOU'RE RIGHT.


20m
地下鉄 神保町駅
Jinbocho Subway Sta.

Chapter 102

30


OH!
AH!
AHH!


ARE YOU HUNGRY?
IF YOU DON'T MIND LEFTOVERS, I CAN HEAT SOMETHING UP.

HEEEY...
TAKA?

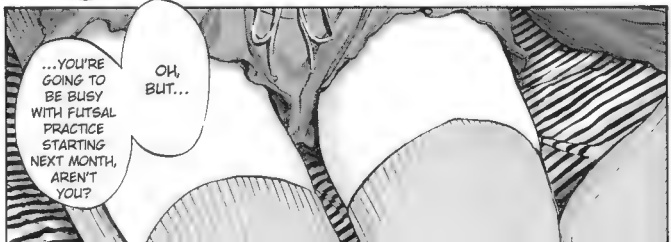
STOP THAT.

THAT?
THAT'S MY STUDENT I.D.
IF YOU MUST SMOKE, DO IT UNDER THE EXHAUST FAN, OKAY?
THEY'RE BAD FOR YOU.

OH, WAIT!
NO WAY, THAT PICTURE'S FROM BEFORE COLLEGE!
"Whaaat? What's the big deal?"
I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE IT.
REALLY, PLEASE DON'T.
"Why not?
"It's no big deal.
"Just let me..."
HEY.
YOU'RE REALLY PUSHING IT.

I ALREADY CLEANED UP, SO SOME OTHER TIME, OKAY?
NOPE ...
HUH?
YOU WANT TO DO IT AGAIN?
WHAT?
HMM?

YOU WANT TO COME TOO, TAKA?
YOU SHOULD MEET MY MOM. SHE IS SUPER FUNNY.
SHE FIGURES I'LL HAVE MY LICENSE BY THEN, SO SHE WANTS TO GO FOR A DRIVE.
OH YEAH, MY MOM'S COMING AGAIN NEXT MONTH.

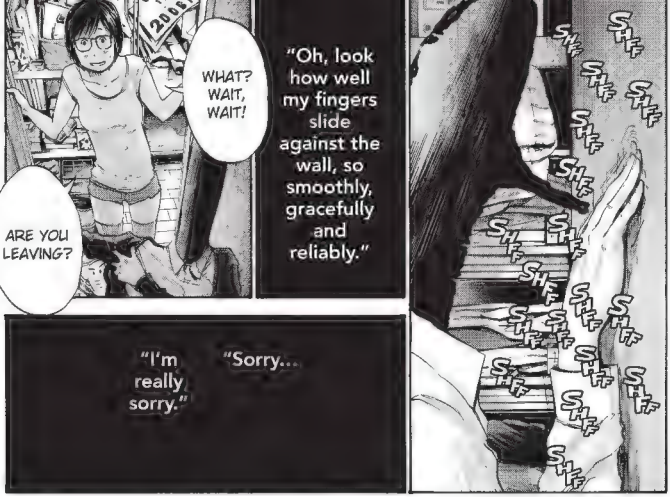

...YOU'RE GOING TO BE BUSY WITH FUTSAL PRACTICE STARTING NEXT MONTH, AREN'T YOU?
OH, BUT...

I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND SOCCER ...
...BUT OFFSIDE IS REALLY IMPORTANT, RIGHT?
NEXT TIME YOU HAVE A GAME, I'LL MAKE LUNCH AND COME CHEER YOU ON.
I WANT TO MEET YOUR FRIENDS.

HA HA HA!

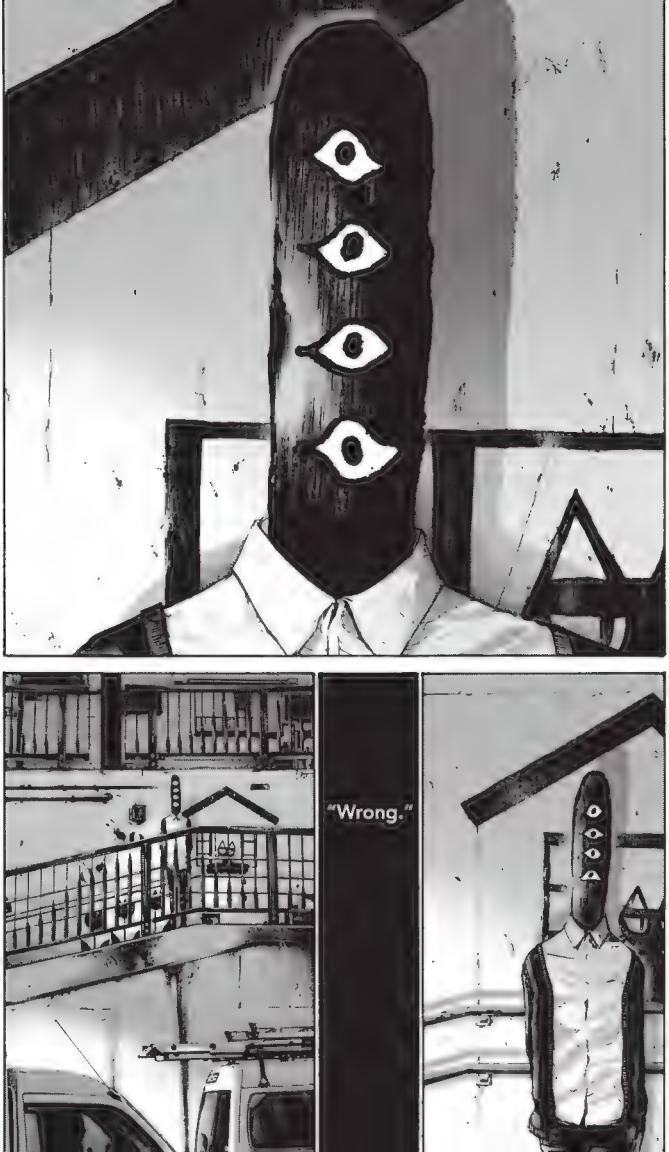
WE MUST...
...BE A GOOD MATCH.
I DIDN'T THINK WE'D HIT IT OFF SO WELL SO QUICKLY...

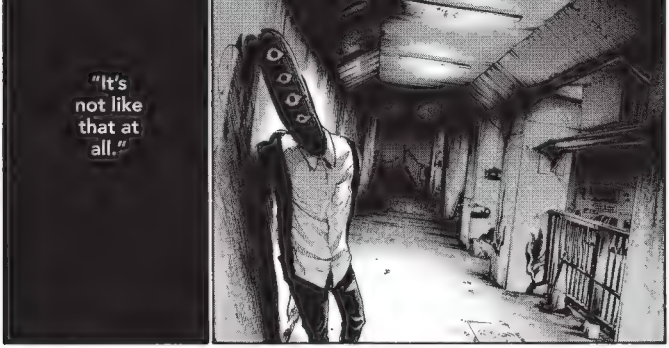
WHAM
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG?
"Uh, well... There was a tarantula on the wall."
HUH?
WHAT'S UP? ARE YOU UPSET ABOUT SOME-THING?

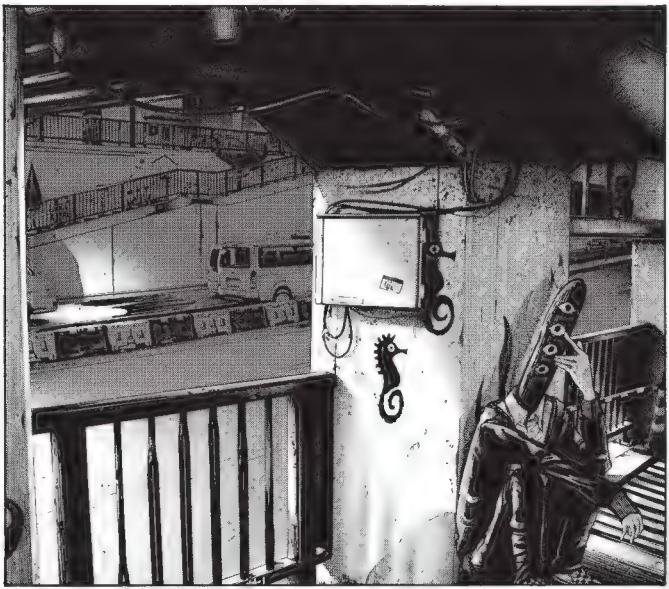

ARE YOU LEAVING?
WHAT? WAIT, WAIT!
"Oh, look how well my fingers slide against the wall, so smoothly, gracefully and reliably."
"I'm really sorry."
"Sorry..."
SHFF

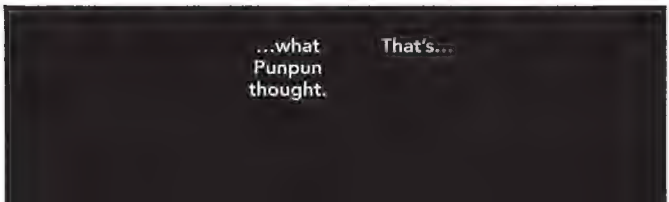
ARE WE STILL GOING TO THE MOVIES TOMOR-ROW?
EXPLAIN IT TO ME!
WHY?!

TAKA ?!

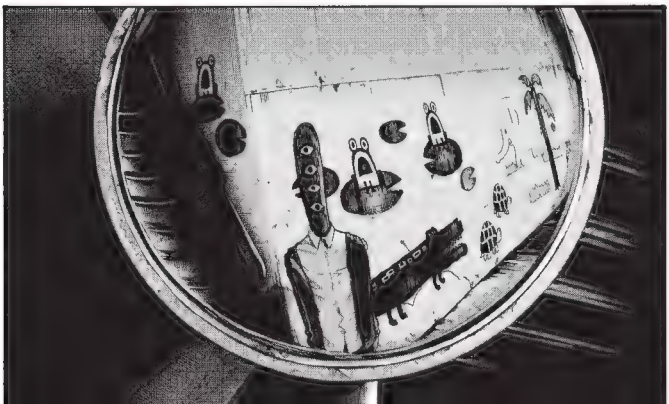

"Wrong."


"It's not like that at all."



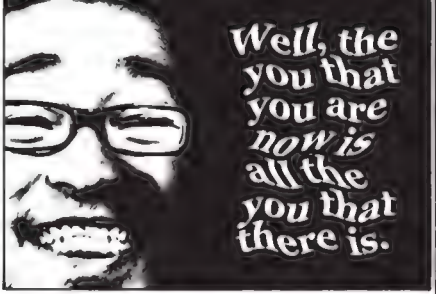

...what Punpun thought.
That's...

"Is this...



"...what
my face
looks
like?"

BICYCLES
OHIBITED
FINES

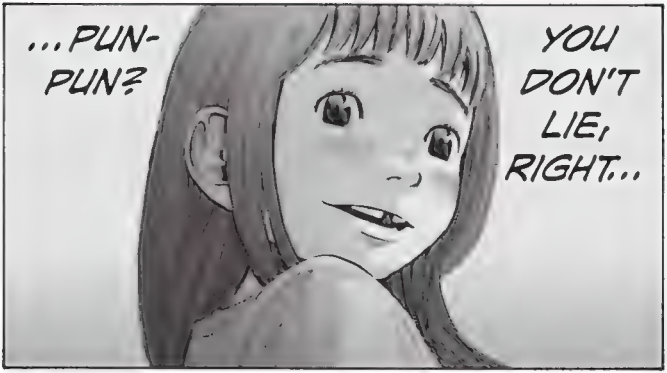


When we were kids, Aiko used to say...

"In a few years we'll run out of oil, the environment will be destroyed and...it'll be over for humanity."

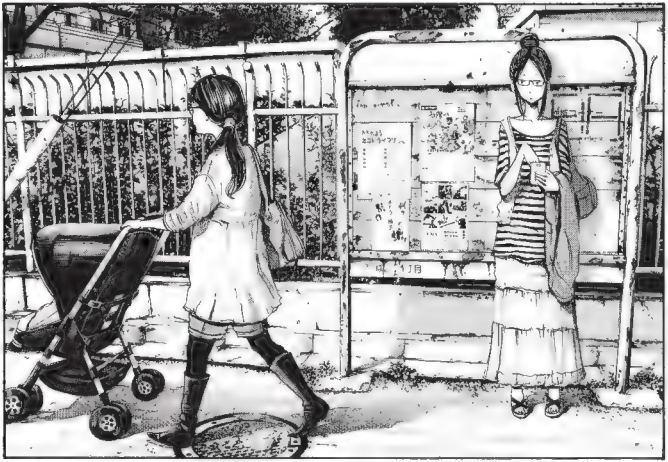
I believed her, and **this** is how I ended up.

While Aiko easily achieved her dream, like nothing happened.



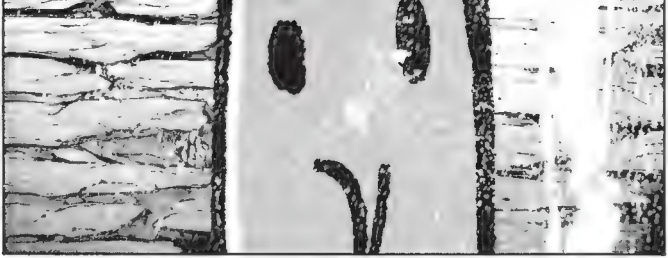
You're...

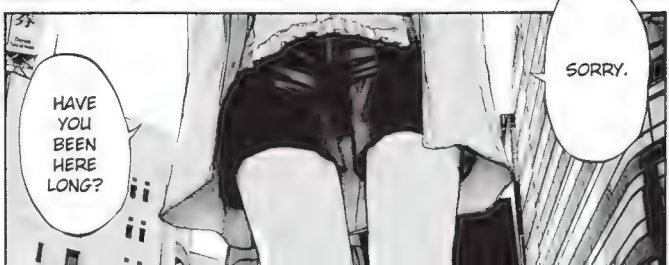
...the liar.

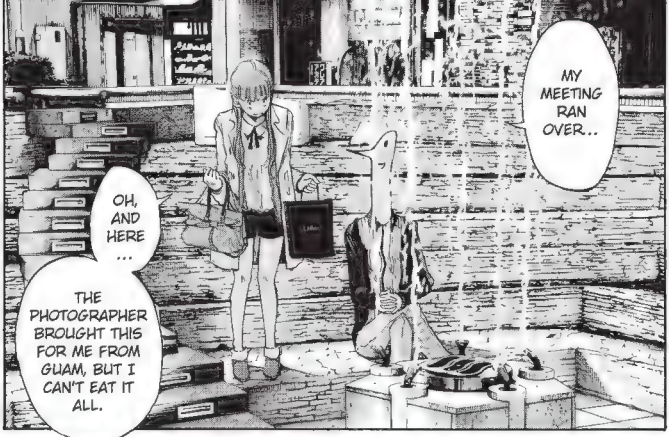


HMM?
YOU GUYS ARE HANGING OUT, BUT NO PUNPUN?
WE MESSAGED HIM, BUT HE HAD THE BALLS TO TELL US HE'S BUSY ALL WEEK.
AH.
WOW, SACHI, YOU'RE EATING CANDY. HOW UNUSUAL.

I QUIT SMOKING. I CAN'T SPEND THAT KIND OF MONEY ON CIGARETTES ANYMORE.
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOME-THING?
UM, SACHI.
IS THERE ANYONE WHO ISN'T?
HERE, KANIE, LET'S FIGURE OUT WHAT WE'RE DOING. WE'RE OFF TO OKINAWA TOMORROW.
OKINAWA

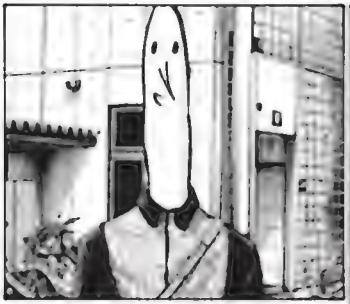



HAVE YOU BEEN HERE LONG?
SORRY.



"I was sipping/ spilling my coffee and studying at a coffee shop until just a little while ago."

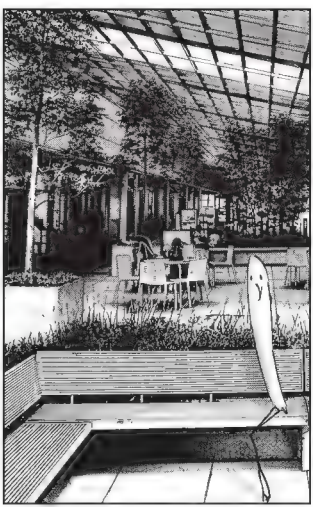
"Thank you, don't worry about it...

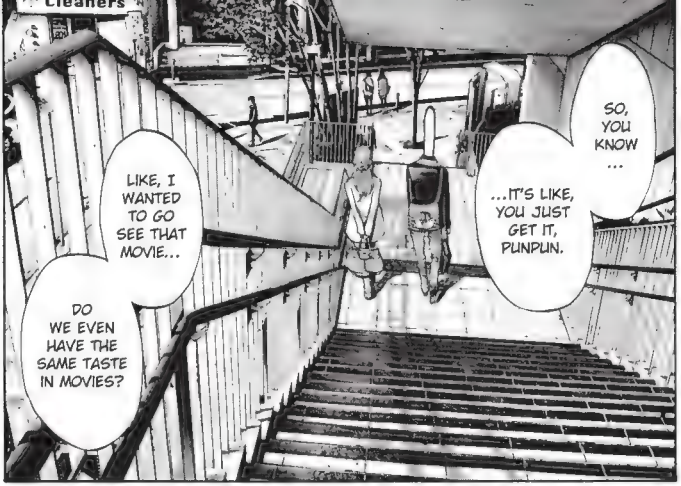


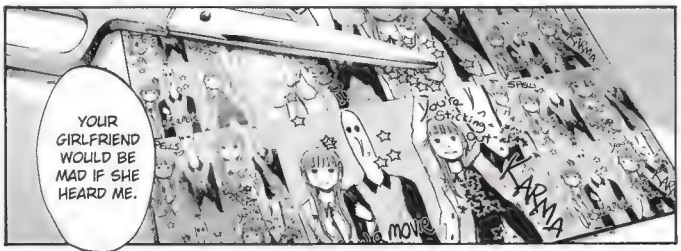
"Let's go."

"It's nothing..."

SPELLS
You're Sticking Out
ARMS
SPELLS
You're Sticking Out
ARMS




Cleaners
SO, YOU KNOW ...
...IT'S LIKE, YOU JUST GET IT, PUNPUN.
LIKE, I WANTED TO GO SEE THAT MOVIE...
DO WE EVEN HAVE THE SAME TASTE IN MOVIES?


YOUR GIRLFRIEND WOULD BE MAD IF SHE HEARD ME.
You're Sticking Out
KARMA
movie

OH...
MY FRIEND RUNS IT.
THERE'S A REALLY CUTE CAFÉ NEARBY.
CUBE

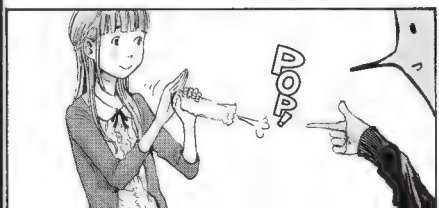
SORRY.
THEY'RE HAVING A PRIVATE PARTY TODAY.

THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER.

...and, except for minor signs of rejection, it fit very well.

In just a few days, Taka's soul had spread throughout Punpun's body...

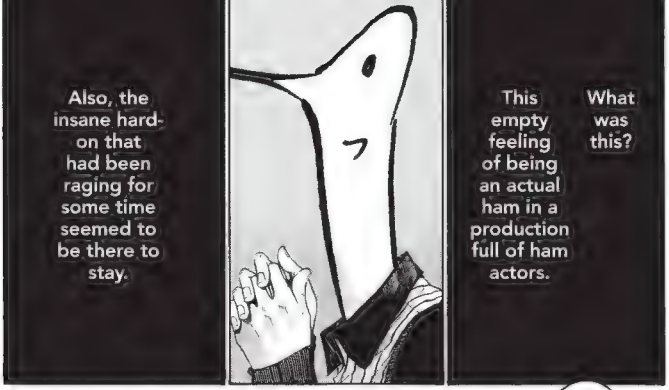
Information on movies and cool cafés he'd crammed into his head the night before and ostentatious conversation that he truly didn't care about spewed forth endlessly from his mouth.



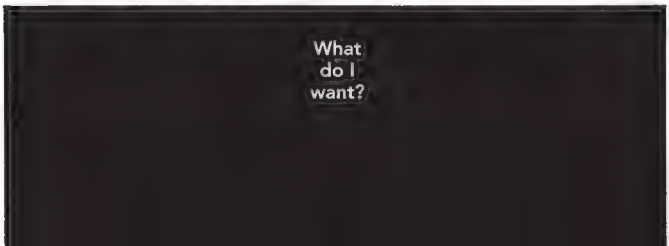
WHAT?
BECAUSE THESE KINDS OF MOM-AND-POP PLACES ARE REALLY COMFORTABLE.
WHEN I GO DRINKING WITH MY FRIENDS, IT'S ALWAYS IN CHEAP PLACES LIKE THIS.

THIS IS NICE. IT'S THE KIND OF PLACE FOR COLLEGE GUYS.
IT'S UNAFFECTED, LIKE YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING?
$4.00

OCTOPUS SASHIMI
$7.00
"...medi- um raw?"
"Um...
SO A MEDIUM DRAUGHT FOR YOU?


Also, the insane hard-on that had been raging for some time seemed to be there to stay.
This empty feeling of being an actual ham in a production full of ham actors.
What was this?

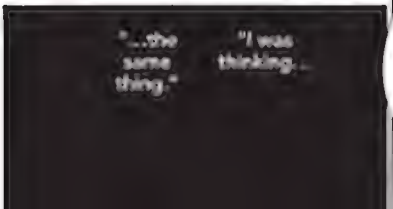
NO WAY, YOUR FRIEND IS DOING WHAT?
RENTING A ROOM SO HE CAN LOOK FOR THE GIRL HE LOVES IS JUST SO SAD...
WE SHOULD ALL GO OUT ONE NIGHT, AND I'LL INTRODUCE HIM TO ONE OF MY MODEL FRIENDS!


What do I want?

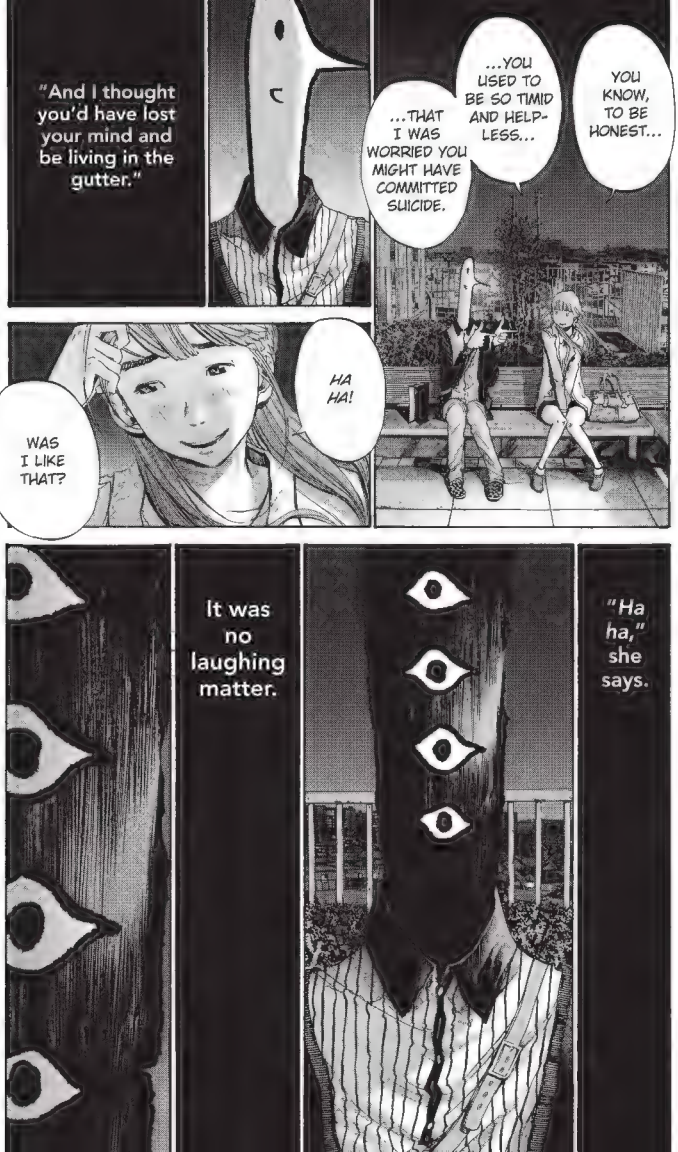
And who the hell are you?

I WONDER WHY WE NEVER BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER BEFORE.
IT'S SO WEIRD...
IT'S SUCH A SMALL TOWN.
AHH CHO
AHHH...
I MAY BE A LITTLE DRUNK.
WAIT, AM I?
NO, YES, I AM.
YOU KNOW...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO MISUNDER-STAND.
I DON'T ALWAYS GO OUT PARTYING LIKE THIS.
I DO HAVE A BOYFRIEND.

I WAS A CHILD AND STUPID...
I THOUGHT MAYBE I'D HURT YOU SOMEHOW.
BUT I'VE WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU FOR A LONG TIME.
IT'S BEEN AWKWARD BETWEEN US.

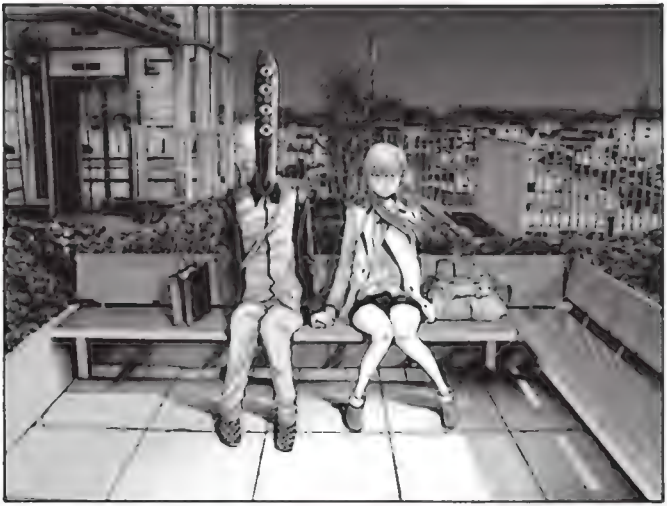

"...the same thing."
"I was thinking..."

I WAS HOPING THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN WE COULD TALK NORMALLY AGAIN.
SO I'M REALLY HAPPY.


"And I thought you'd have lost your mind and be living in the gutter."
YOU KNOW, TO BE HONEST...
...YOU USED TO BE SO TIMID AND HELPLESS...
...THAT I WAS WORRIED YOU MIGHT HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE.
HA HA!
WAS I LIKE THAT?
"Ha ha," she says.
It was no laughing matter.

...Aiko Tanaka.

You've got to be kidding...



"Can we stay like this for a while?"
"Why do you think?"
WHY?
NO.
WE CAN'T...
...DO THIS.

MY FEET...
I'M TIRED OF WALKING.
PUMPUN
...YOU'RE SCARING ME A LITTLE.
PUMPUN
HOW FAR ARE WE GOING?

"Do you want to take a break at a karaoke place?"

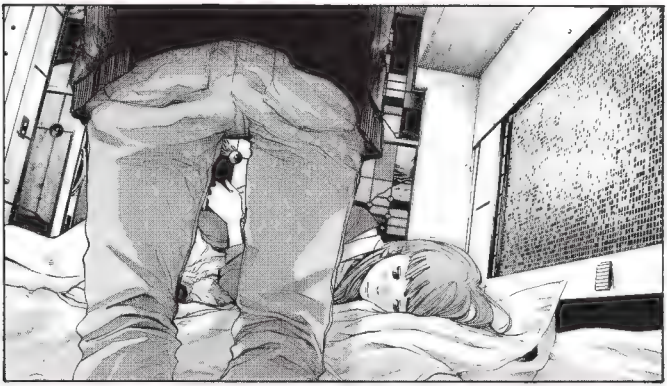
"How about a manga café?"

"So should we throw ourselves in front of a train?"

"Let's go to a hotel."

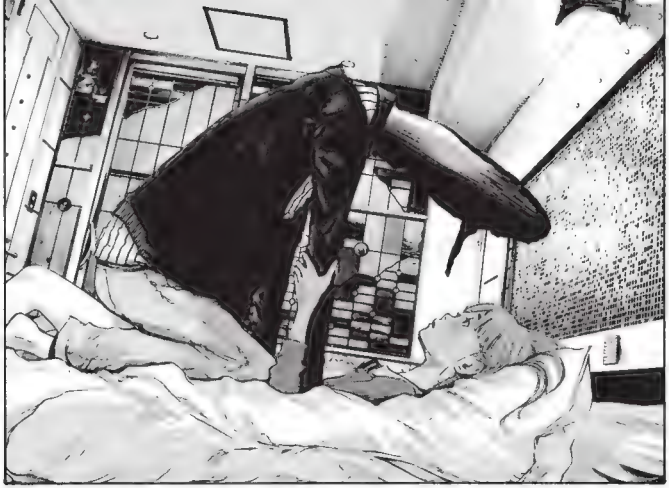
I have no idea what you're thinking.

Aiko...



...I'm sad.

But somehow...

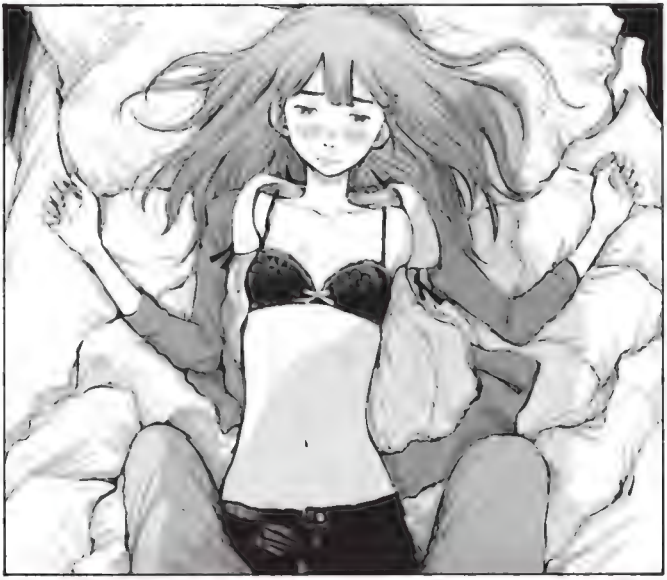


I know it's audacious, but I...

I...

...it's obvious that she's a little slutty if she just goes with her shallow classmate that she hasn't seen in a couple of years...

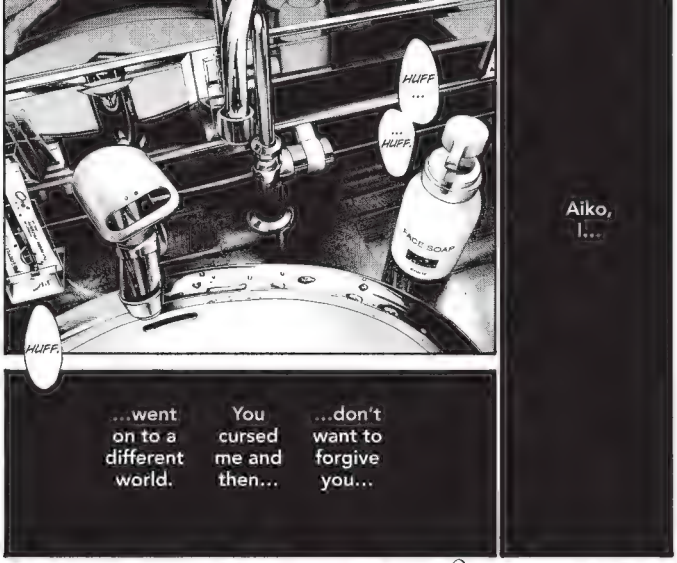
At any rate...

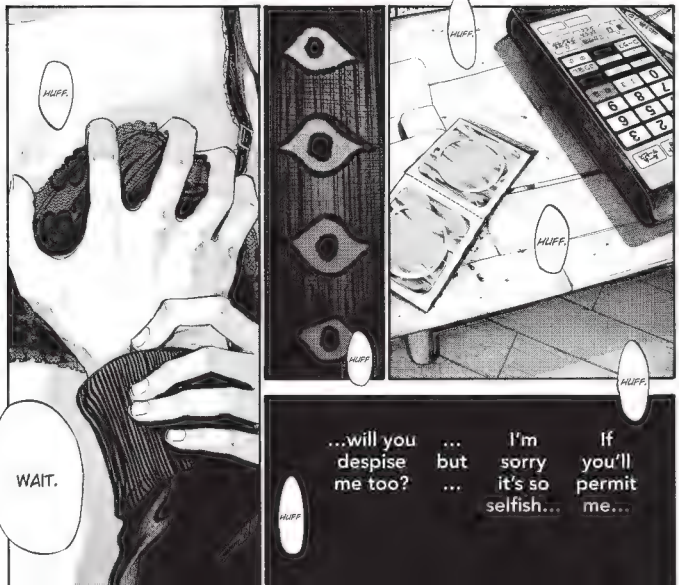


...into the depths of despair.

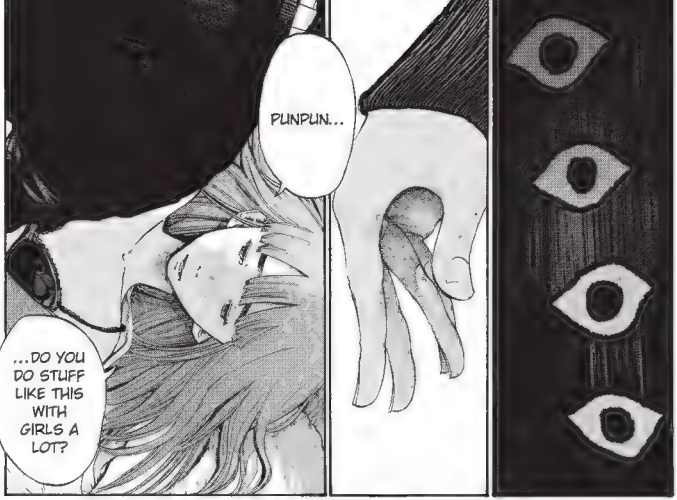
I want to knock you...

Chapter 104


HUFF.
...
...HUFF.
FACE SOAP
HUFF.
Aiko, I...
...went on to a different world.
You cursed me and then...
...don't want to forgive you...


HUFF.
WAIT.
HUFF
HUFF.
HUFF.
HUFF
...will you despise me too?
... but ...
I'm sorry it's so selfish...
If you'll permit me...

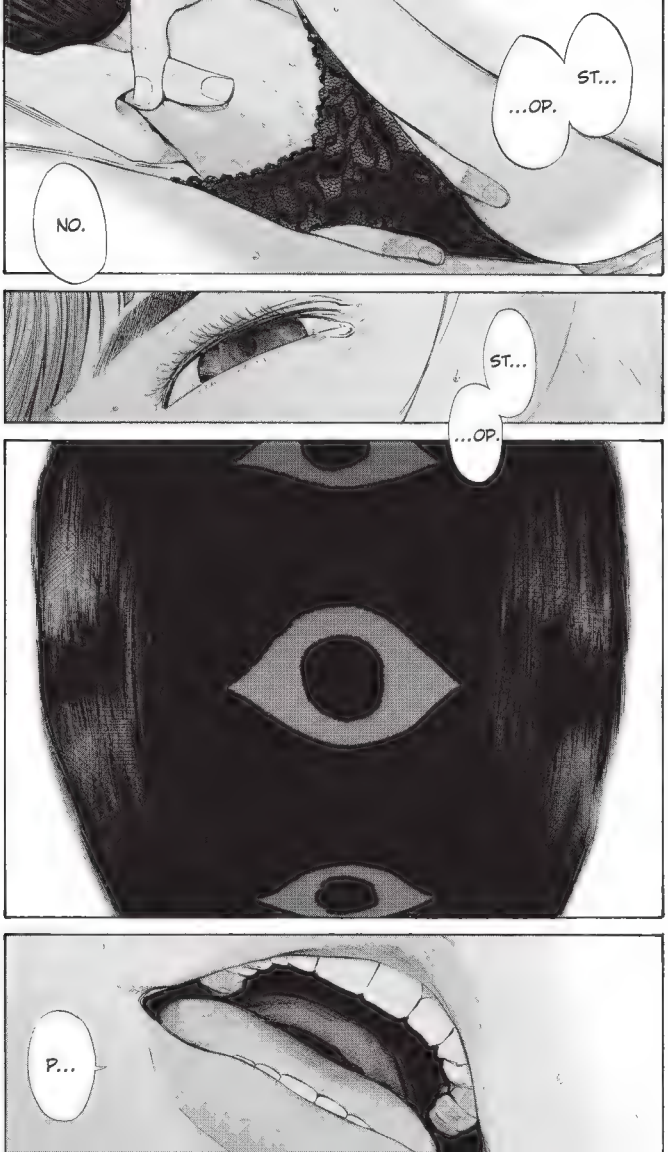
HUFF.
HUFF.
HUFF.
...
...
HUFF.
HUFF.
HUFF.
HUFF.
HUFF.

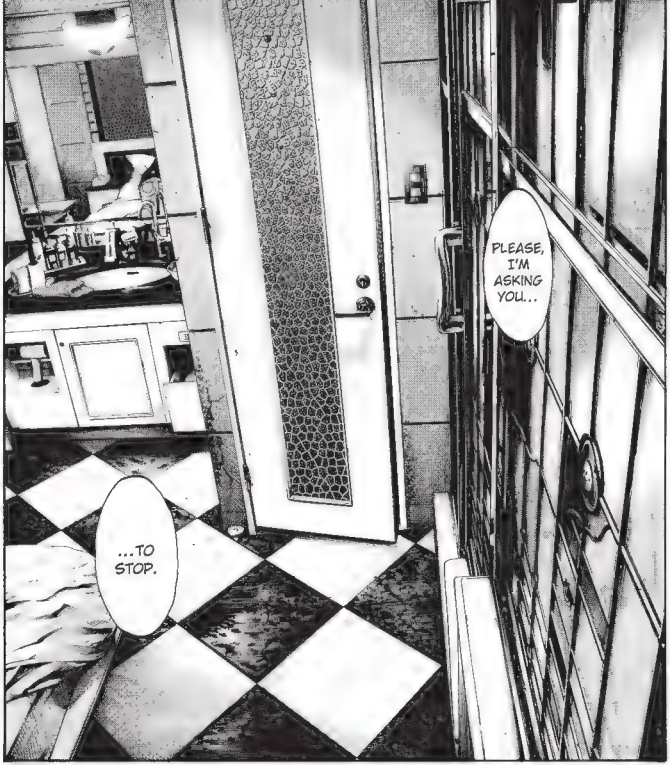
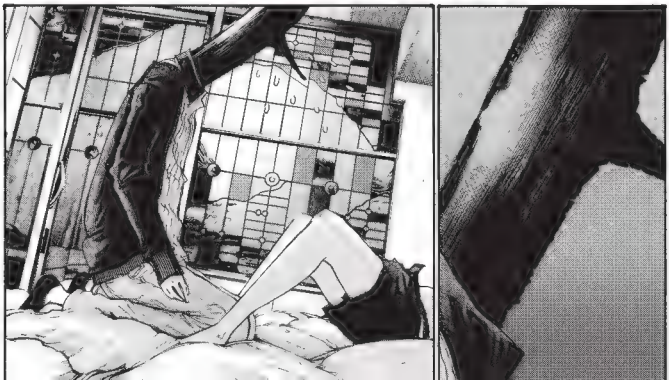

PUNPUN...
...DO YOU DO STUFF LIKE THIS WITH GIRLS A LOT?

HEY...
ANSWER ME.

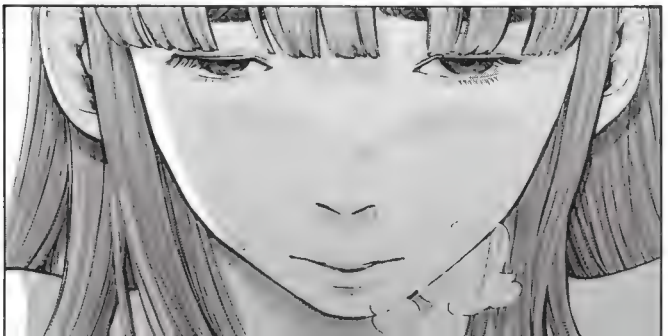
NO...
ACTUALLY ...
NO.

STOP IT.
S...
STOP IT.
STOP.
STOP.


NO.
ST...
...OP.
ST...
...OP.
P...


PLEASE, I'M ASKING YOU...
...TO STOP.


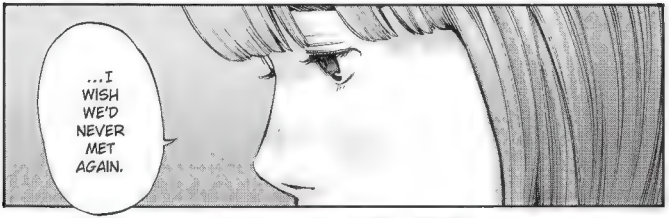
HUFF
HUFF.
HUFF
HUFF.

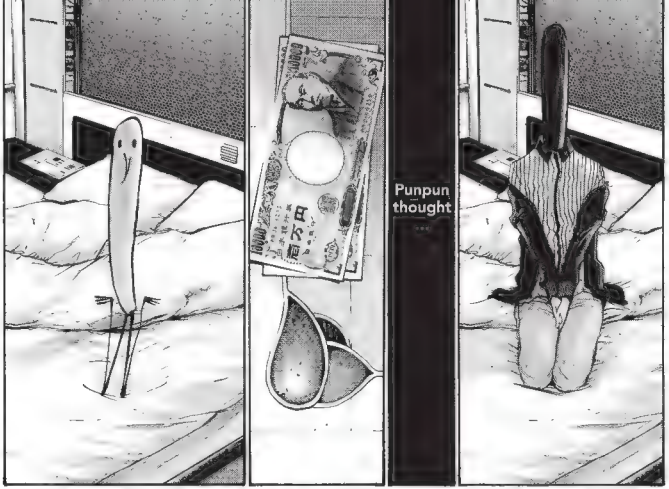


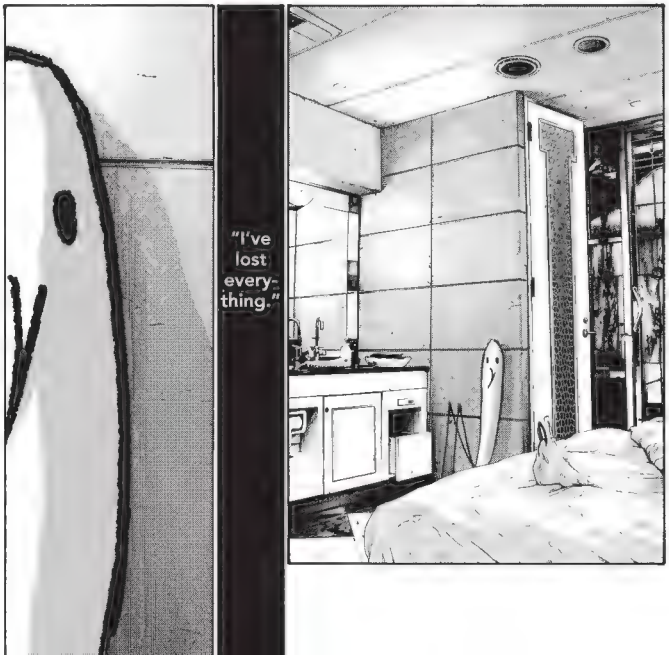
I'M...
GOING HOME.

THIS IS STUPID.
HOW NICE FOR YOU THAT YOUR LIFE IS SO FUN.

IF I'D KNOWN IT WAS GOING TO END LIKE THIS...


...I WISH WE'D NEVER MET AGAIN.


Punpun thought


"I've lost every-thing."

There's
nothing
left
to do.

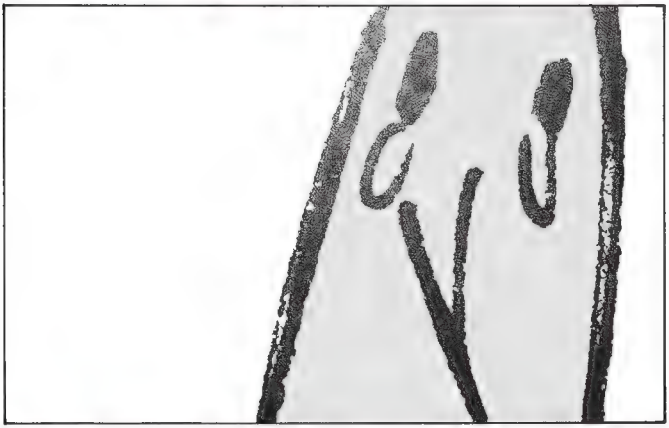
The early mid-May morning held hands with the wind between the buildings and carried a feeling of nascent summer.

...and headed for the sewer with bloody semen.

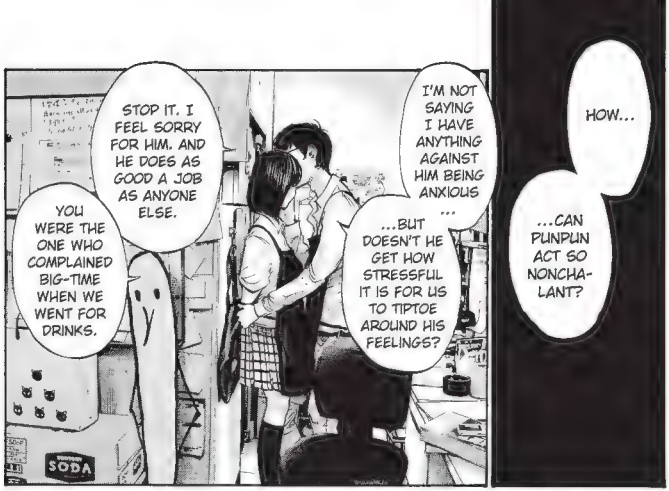
The sense of emptiness got off the prostate line at urethra station...

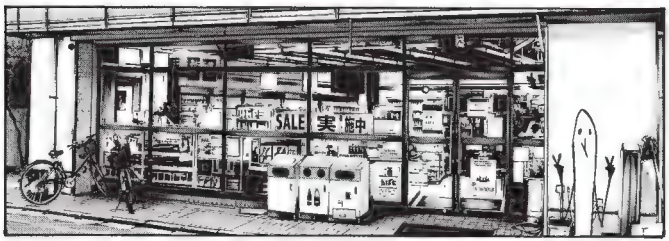
As long as he stayed put, summer should arrive all on its own.

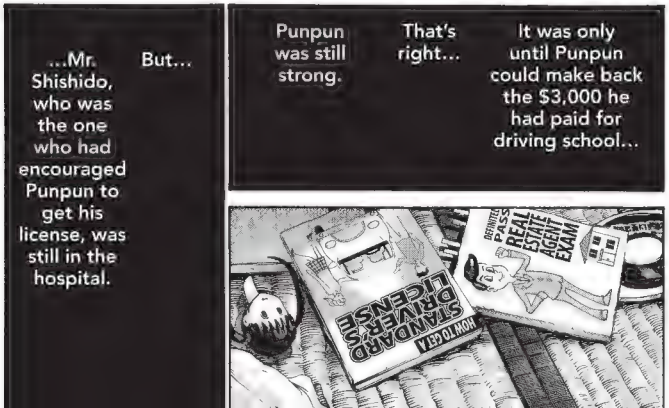
There was no reason for Punpun to walk around anymore.



He was really looking forward to summer.


HOW...
...CAN PUNPUN ACT SO NONCHA-LANT?
I'M NOT SAYING I HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST HIM BEING ANXIOUS ...
...BUT DOESN'T HE GET HOW STRESSFUL IT IS FOR US TO TIPTOE AROUND HIS FEELINGS?
STOP IT. I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM. AND HE DOES AS GOOD A JOB AS ANYONE ELSE.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO COMPLAINED BIG-TIME WHEN WE WENT FOR DRINKS.
SODA


SALE
実施中


It was only until Punpun could make back the $3,000 he had paid for driving school...
That's right...
Punpun was still strong.
But...
...Mr. Shishido, who was the one who had encouraged Punpun to get his license, was still in the hospital.
HOW TO PASS STANDARD DRIVER'S LICENSE
HOW TO PASS REAL ESTATE AGENT EXAM

Die, die, die!

You idiot! You piece of shit!

Are you **kid-ding** me?

Are you kid-ding me?

...and I'll live wherever has the most beautiful scenery.

I'll bring the bare minimum of luggage...

...I'm going to go far, far away, where I don't know anyone!

When I get my license...

That's what Punpun thought.

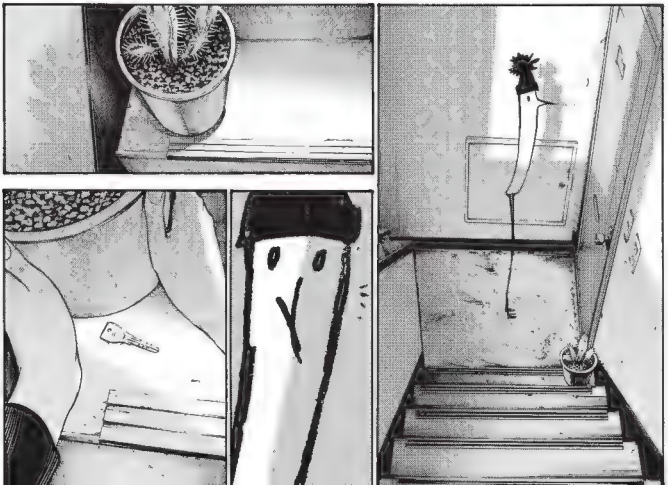
...but it would be nice to find a special someone there...

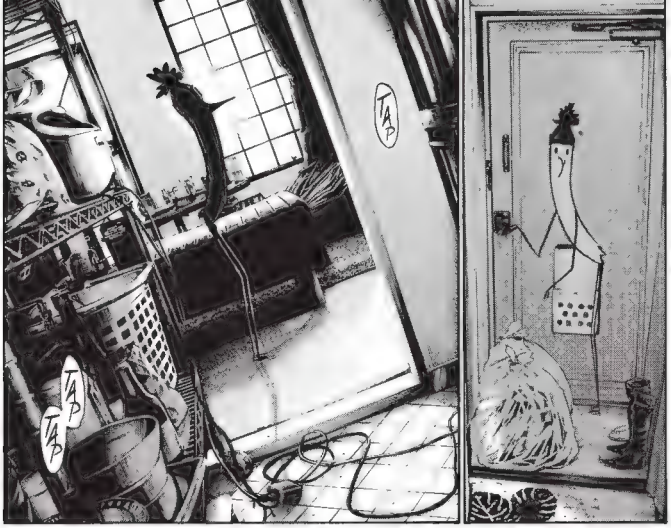
I don't care if it's far, far in the future...

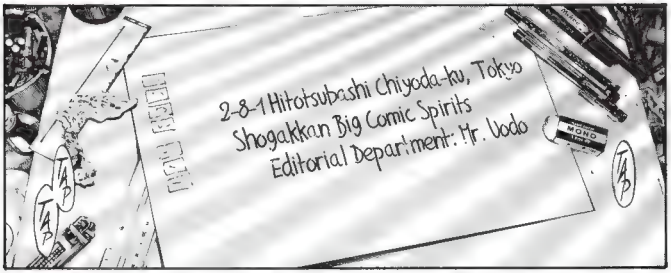
I'm not in a hurry anymore.

...standing in front of Sachi's building.

He found himself...

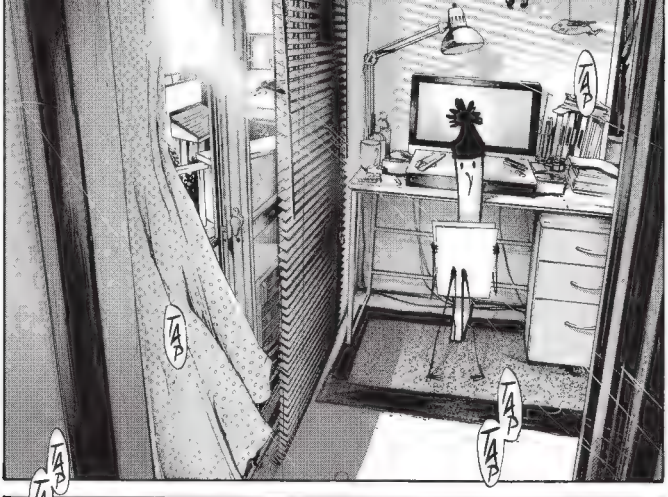




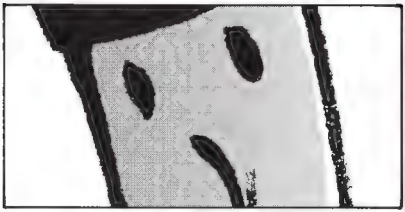


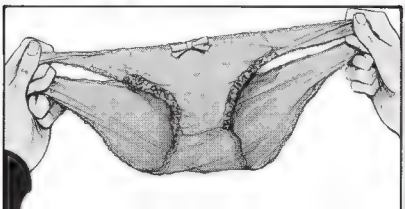
The completed manuscript carelessly strewn on the desk...

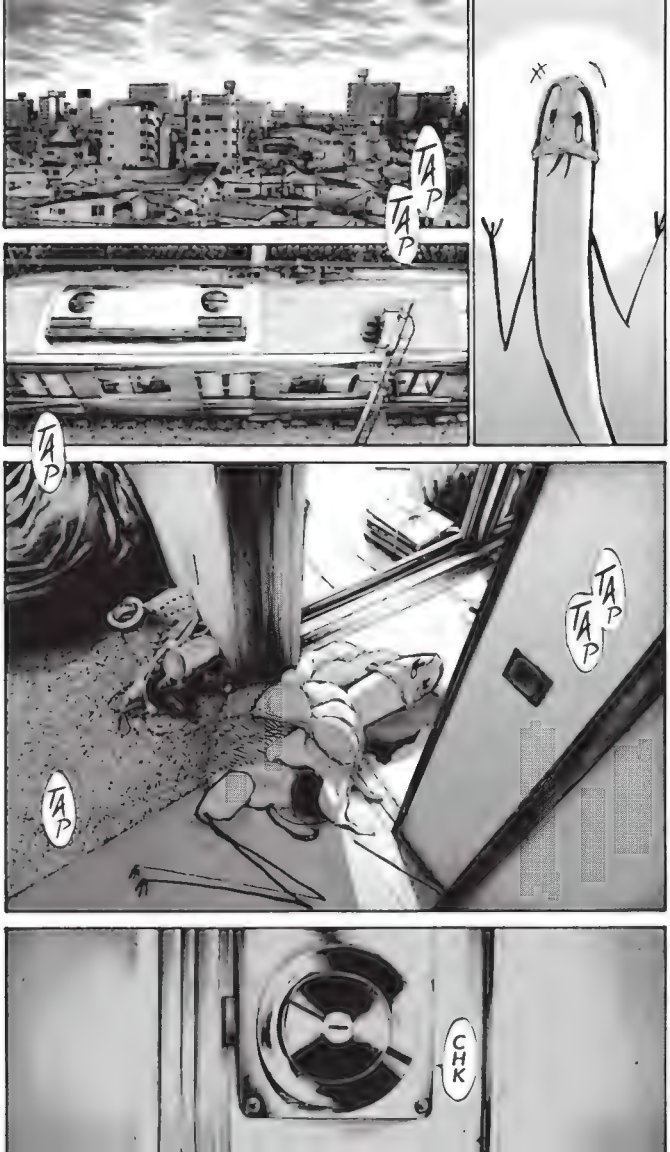
...conveyed Sachi's talent without any help from Punpun.

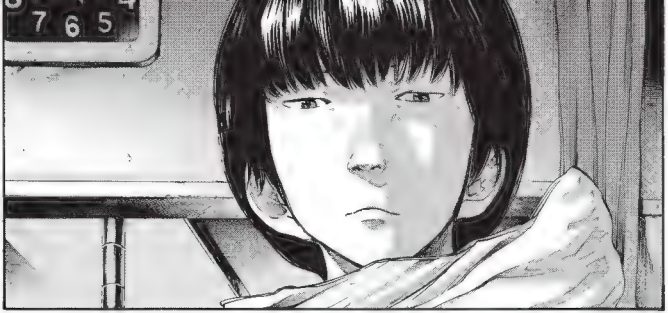


Punpun thought, "This is good."

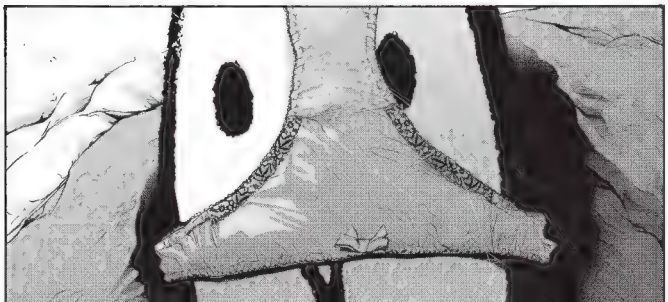


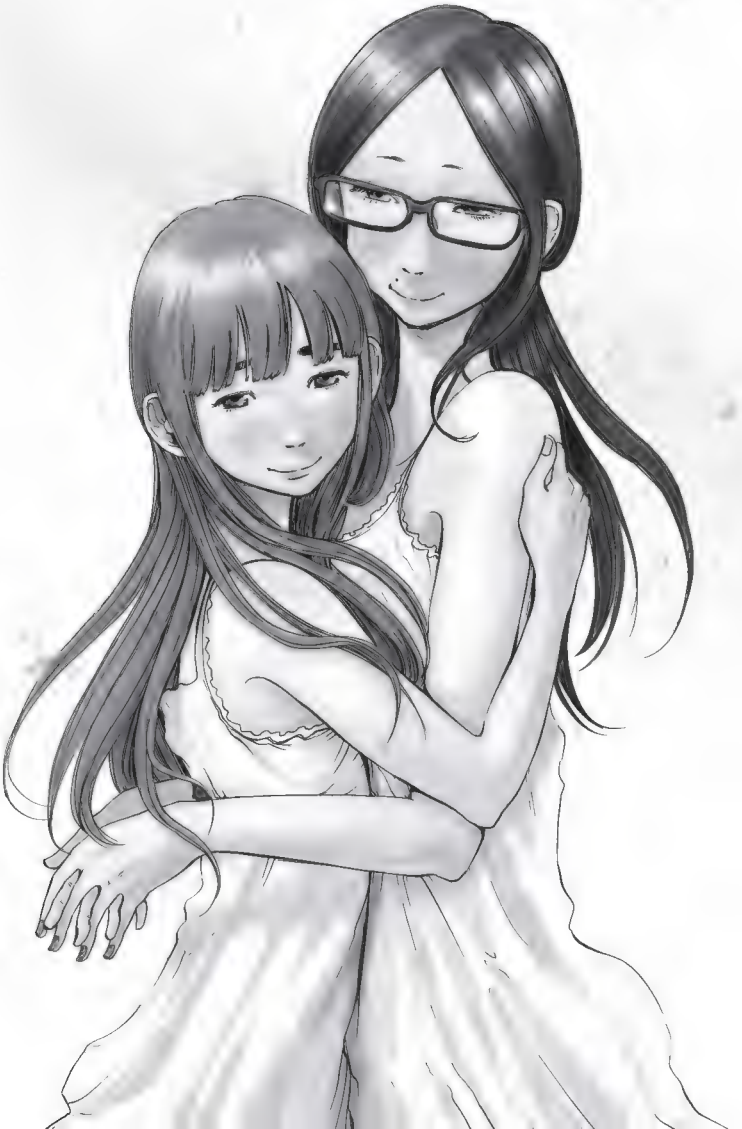


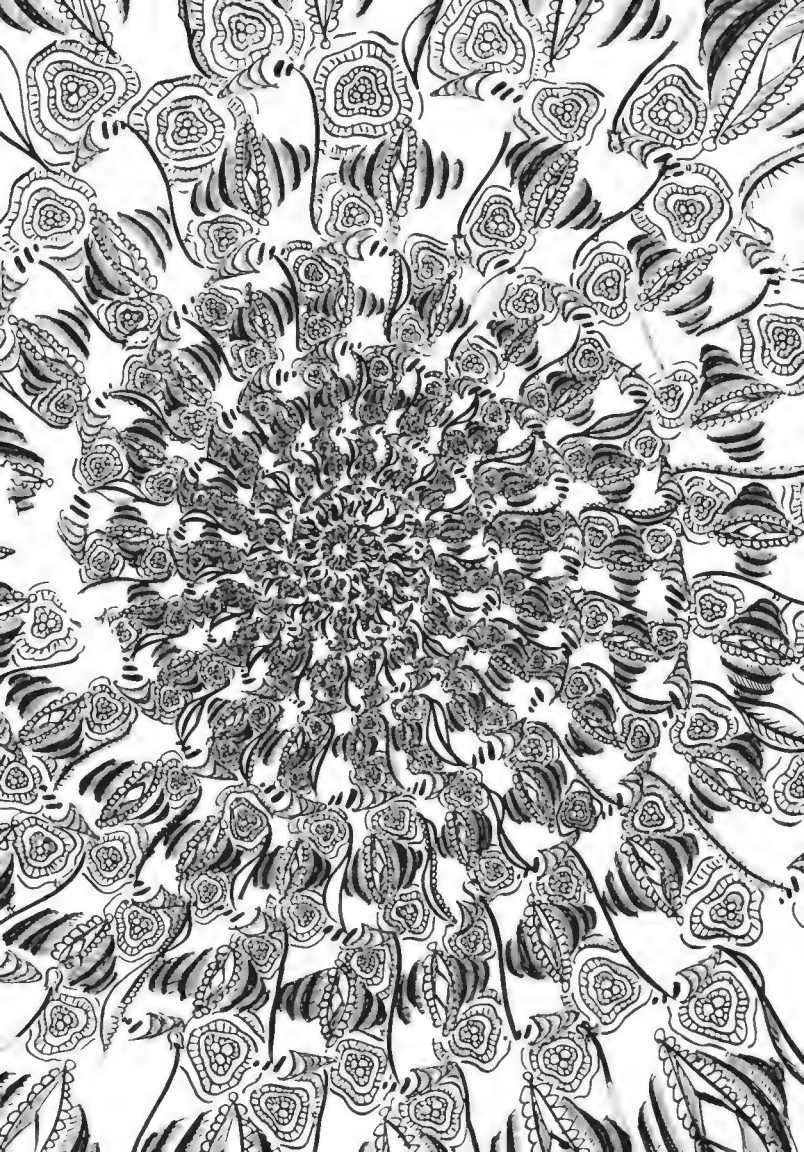

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
CHK


7 6 5

WHO ARE YOU?







Chapter 105

THANKS FOR COMING OUT ON A WEEKDAY.
OH, DO YOU WANT A SOUVENIR?
KIND OF, FOR MY GOOD LOOKS.
DON'T WORRY.
NO THANKS, IT'LL JUST TAKE UP SPACE.
IT'S SO LIKE YOU TO ENJOY YOUR TRIP ANYWAY.
HEY, DID YOU QUIT SMOKING?
HUH?
THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU. JUST GO GET A SHOT OF HYALURONIC ACID.

HOW ABOUT YOU, SAOTOME ...
HOW'S YOUR JOB?
I HAVE A MEETING THIS AFTERNOON, BUT I'M OKAY UNTIL THEN.

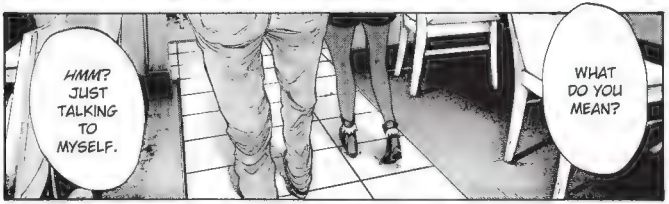
CHEAP QUIZ SHOW LITTERED WITH MODELS AND CELEBRITIES. DO YOU LIKE MAKING SHOWS LIKE THAT?
¥330~
YEAH, IT WON'T LAST...
ISN'T THAT BORING?
NEVER MIND MY JOB.

I JUST WANTED TO HAVE A WORD WITH HIM, OUT OF CONCERN.
I'M ONLY YOUR EX-HUSBAND.
WELL, I GUESS THERE'S NO NEED TO TAKE ACTION, CIRCUMSTANCES BEING WHAT THEY ARE.

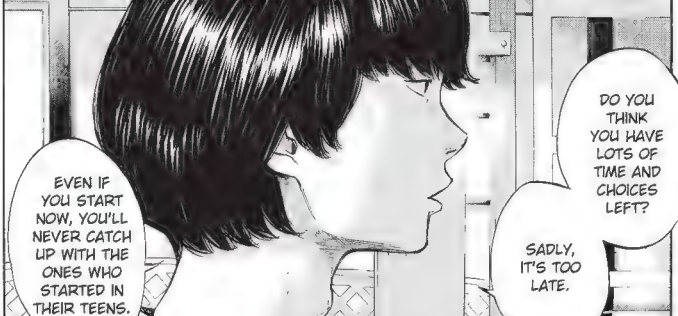
EVENTUALLY SHE'LL CAST YOU ASIDE WITHOUT HESITATION.
SHE'S STRICTLY FOCUSED ON SELF-ACTU-ALIZATION.
YOU SHOULDN'T HANG AROUND SACHI ANYMORE.

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU KEPT HARASSING ME TO GET A JOB.
SHE GOT AN OFFER FOR A MEDIA JOB WITHOUT EVEN TRYING, BUT SHE DECLINED IT AND DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL...
SHE WAS LIKE THAT IN COLLEGE.
ONCE SACHI DECIDES TO DO SOMETHING, SHE HAS A RIDICULOUS AMOUNT OF ENERGY.

A CONTRARIAN IS ACTUALLY PRETTY EASY TO MANAGE.
IF YOU WANT THEM TO GO RIGHT, JUST TELL THEM TO GO LEFT.
I THOUGHT THAT IF SHE DIDN'T HAVE HER OWN INCOME, SHE'D RELY ON ME MORE.
I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D DIVORCE ME.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HMM? JUST TALKING TO MYSELF.

PUNPUN ...
...I HEAR...
...YOU WANT TO WORK IN REAL ESTATE. WHY?
THAT'S JUST HOW THINGS PANNED OUT?
THAT'S ABOUT THE GIST OF IT, RIGHT?
YOU'RE TWENTY NOW, RIGHT?
IF THAT'S HOW YOU'VE BEEN LIVING, THAT'S PRETTY MUCH ALL YOUR LIFE WILL AMOUNT TO.


DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE LOTS OF TIME AND CHOICES LEFT?
SADLY, IT'S TOO LATE.
EVEN IF YOU START NOW, YOU'LL NEVER CATCH UP WITH THE ONES WHO STARTED IN THEIR TEENS.

OKAY, I'LL BE BLUNT...
SUCCESS IS ONLY DEFINED BY HAVING A JOB WORTH DOING AND BEING COMPENSATED FOR IT.
EVEN IF YOU EXPERIENCE SOME FLEETING HAPPINESS...
...A LOSER IS ALWAYS A LOSER.

WHAT'S YOUR DEFINITION OF HAPPINESS, ONODERA?
MAR-RIAGE?
GOOD HEALTH AND A LONG LIFE?
PURSUING YOUR INTER-ESTS?

IF YOU'RE JUST LOOKING FOR A HUMBLE BIT OF JOY...
...THEN I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND IT.
BUT THAT KIND OF FUL-FILLMENT IS A DELUSION CREATED BY A SOCIETY THAT COODLES THE WEAK.
A SOCIETY LIKE THAT WILL EVENTUALLY COLLAPSE, AND THE UNPRO-DUCTIVE WILL BE THE FIRST TO GO.

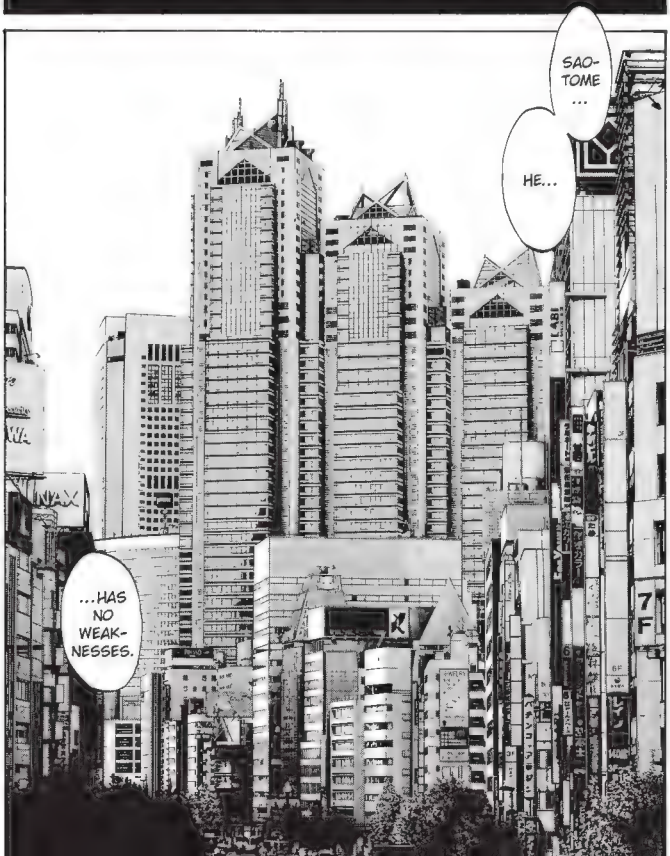
185
SO YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT BEING CUT LOOSE.
ARE YOU READY FOR THAT?
I MEAN, YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAGGING DOWN SOCIETY.
BUT YOU'VE BROUGHT THAT ON YOURSELVES.
THAT'S RIGHT, I'M A WINNER.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, SAOTOME. YOU'RE ON THE WINNING TEAM.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME CALLING OUT A LOSER?
EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I'VE BEEN DESPERATELY HEDGING MY BETS, BATTLING MY FEARS AND MY DEPRAVITY AND LIVING CONSCIENTIOUSLY— ALL SO I CAN BE A WINNER.
THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO IS PLAY THE VICTIM AND RANT.
THAT'S WISE. YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY.
YOU DON'T WANT TO SPEAK?
...DON'T YOU SPEAK?
SO...

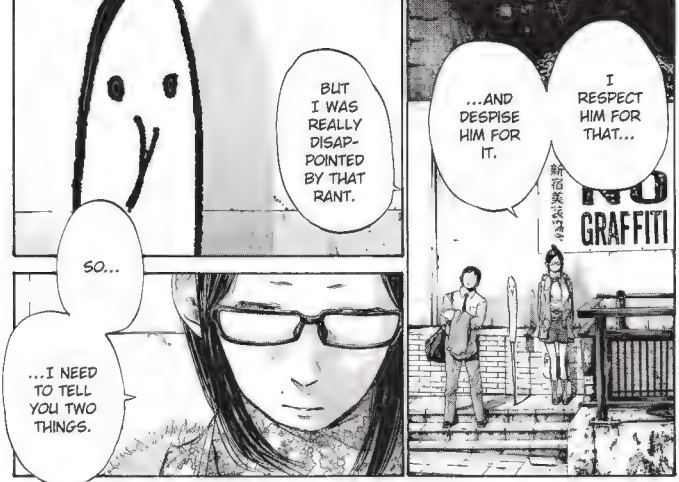
HEY.
THAT'S ...
...GOING TOO FAR!
SUKAIRA ONLINE
¥330
¥590

¥330~ ¥590
YOU'RE SUCH A WOMAN.
YOU'RE TOO TOLERANT. WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THIS KID?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF US.
"That's enough.

"The only thing I can say...

"...is that you and I are clearly incompatible."




BUT I WAS REALLY DISAP-POINTED BY THAT RANT.
SO...
...I NEED TO TELL YOU TWO THINGS.
I RESPECT HIM FOR THAT...
...AND DESPISE HIM FOR IT.
新宿美談会
NO GRAFFITI

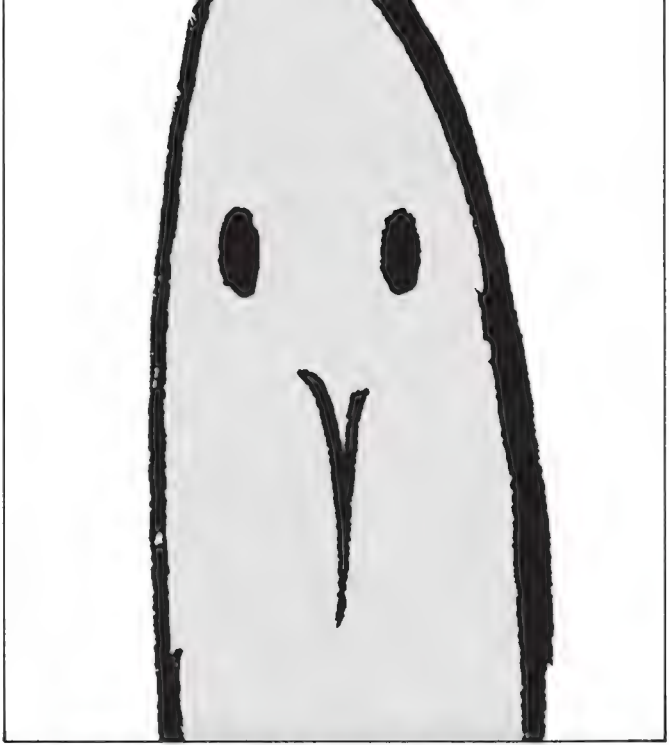
THE FIRST IS...
...ABOUT THAT MANGA I WROTE BY MYSELF.
IT'S GOING TO BE PUBLISHED IN A MAGAZINE SOON AS A FILLER, SINCE ANOTHER ARTIST COULDN'T MEET THE DEADLINE.
東京都庁
Metropolitan Government
500m
EVACUATION

I WON THE BEST NEWCOMER PRIZE MY FIRST TIME AROUND...
...SO IF IT'S WELL RECEIVED, THEY MAY TURN IT INTO A SERIES.

THE OTHER THING IS...

I'M...
... PREGNANT.

4F
MYLORD



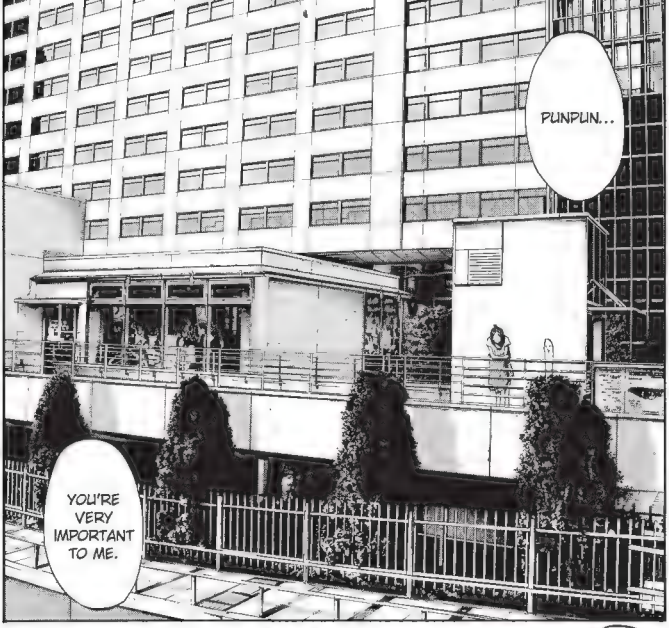
NVIDIA

"He came in you."
SHINJUKU
&
MOSA
STREE
YES, HE DID.
IT'S SAOTOME'S.
SORRY.
NO...
THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO APOLOGIZE ABOUT.
I MEAN, YOU AND I AREN'T...
WE AREN'T...
NIPPON

EVEN I...
...CAN BE LONELY BY MYSELF.

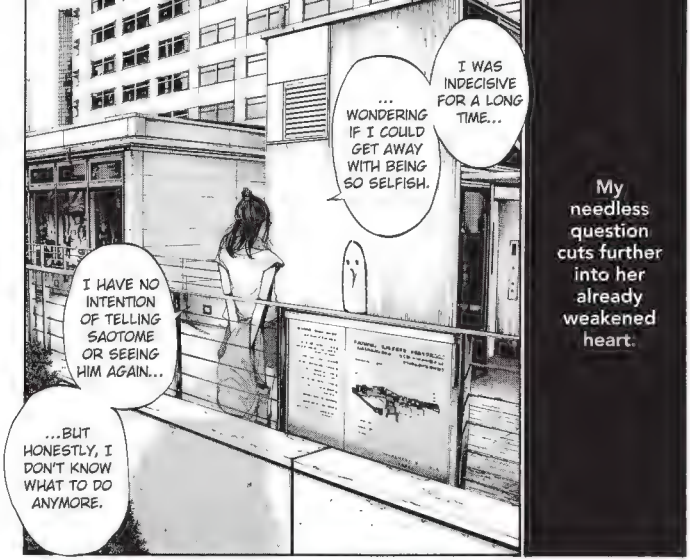
"Who's more important to you—me or your ex?"
HMM?
"Sachi..."

WHICH ANSWER...
...WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY?
There was no need for that...
...
horrible
...
...needless question.
I...


PUNPUN...
YOU'RE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.

IF I LET MYSELF BE SELFISH...
...THEN I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU NOT BEING AROUND.

THANKS TO YOU, I'VE BECOME SOFTHEARTED.

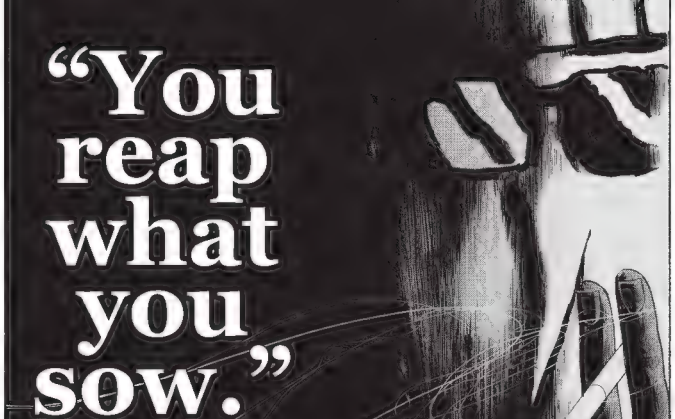

I WAS INDECISIVE FOR A LONG TIME...
... WONDERING IF I COULD GET AWAY WITH BEING SO SELFISH.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF TELLING SAOTOME OR SEEING HIM AGAIN...
...BUT HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE.
My needless question cuts further into her already weakened heart.

...to say nothing and just be supportive. The best thing to do would be...

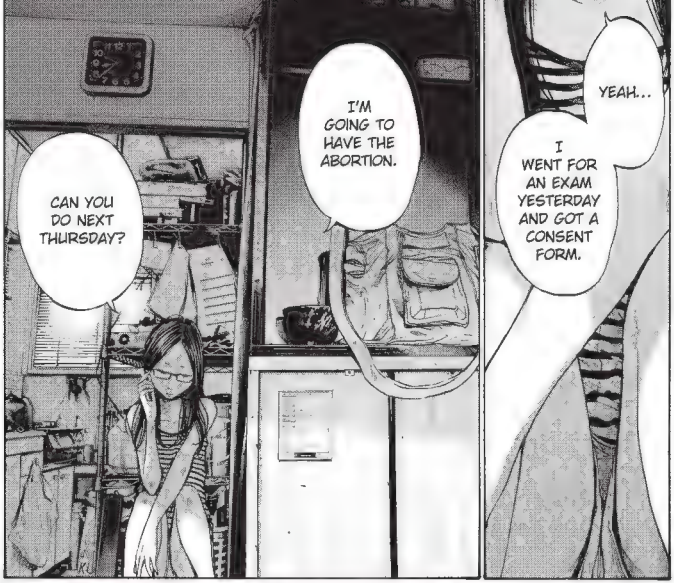
...“Yes.”

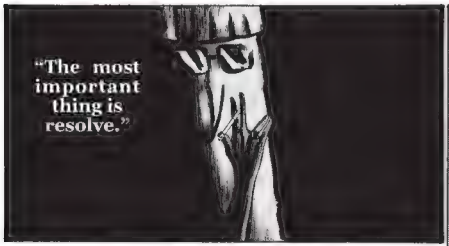
...Punpun answered...

In a small voice...

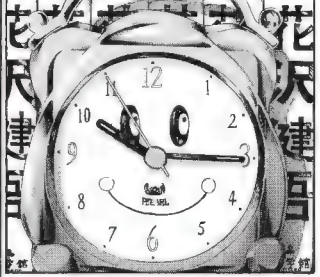


The words Uncle Yuichi once said kept circling in Punpun's mind.


CAN YOU DO NEXT THURSDAY?
I'M GOING TO HAVE THE ABORTION.
YEAH...
I WENT FOR AN EXAM YESTERDAY AND GOT A CONSENT FORM.


"The most important thing is resolve."

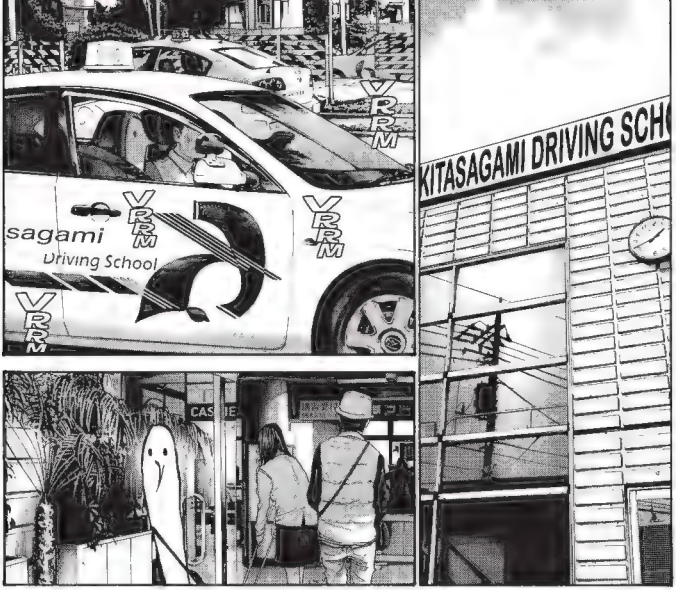
TAKA.
... I resolved. am...
YOU FORGOT THIS.



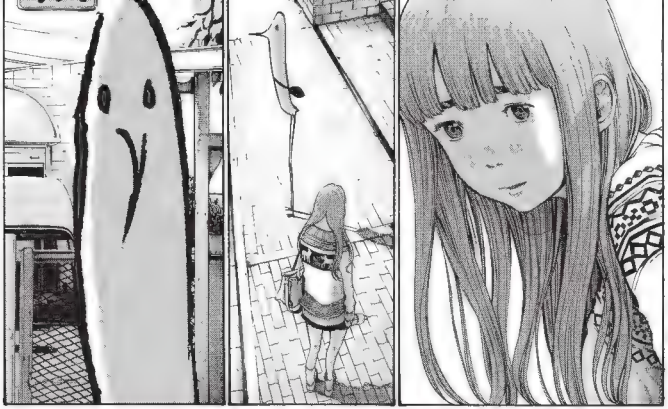
After Sachi has her surgery...

...and I get my license...

...I'm going to live alone in a faraway town.


sagami
Driving School
KITASAGAMI DRIVING SCH

DENTIST
KITASAGAMI DRIVING SCHO



"Can we talk?"

I FINISHED THE COURSE TODAY.
I'M COMING BACK THIS WEEKEND TO TAKE MY TEST.
MUSIC FESTIVAL

IT'S SO HOT...
CHAR-GRILLED OFFAL
IT'S ONLY JUST JUNE!

"I'm sorry for the other day."
I DON'T LIKE...
...CROWDS.

I DON'T LIKE...
...GREASY FOOD

SO, UP NEXT...
...WE HAVE THE PEGASUS ENSEMBLE ON MELOPICAS.

BY APPLYING MY INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ON THE ULTIMATE GIGOLO THEORY...
...I WAS ABLE TO DERIVE A MELODY THAT HARMONIZES DISSONANCE.
THIS PERFORMANCE, DEDICATED TO THE AKASHIC RECORDS, IS ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO EVADE THE PROMISED DAY ONE MONTH FROM NOW...
AND ON JULY 7, I WANT TO CONVERSE WITH ALL YOU LOVERS ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW WORLD.

YOU CAN DO IT...
I VALUE YOU UNEQUIVOCALLY.
THE WORLD CAN BECOME MORE BEAUTIFUL.

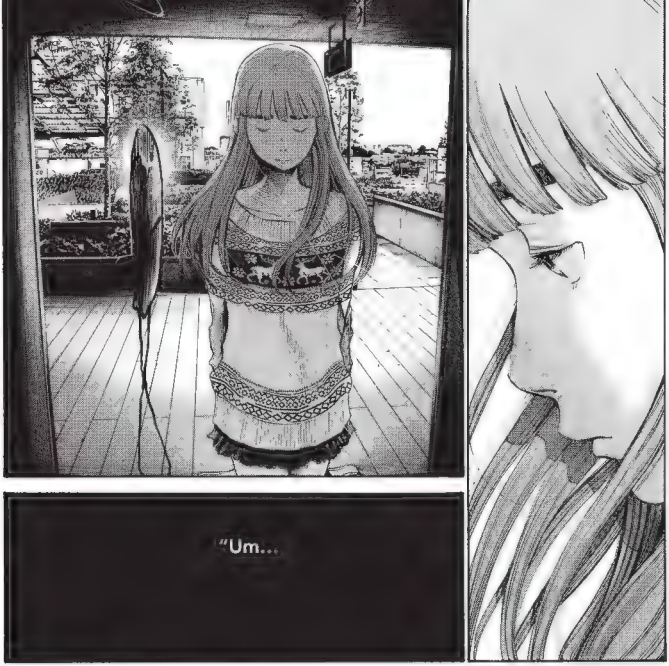
ZING
UM, EXCUSE ME.
CAN YOU START PERFORMING NOW?
COME, YOU MAGIC WARRIORS OF THE 12 TONES...
YOU ARE THE AWESOME ONES BROUGHT TOGETHER FOR THIS UNIFYING MOMENT TODAY...
LET'S ALL GET SOAKED TOGETHER!
LET'S SEND OUR GOOD VIBRATIONS OUT INTO THE UNIVERSE.

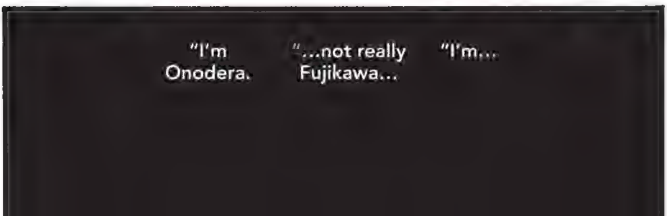
OH...

THIS SONG...
IT'S...
..."I WOULD GIVE YOU ANYTHING."

PUNPUN, YOU DITCHED PRACTICE ONE DAY.
IT WAS THE PIECE WE DID FOR THE CHOIR COMPETITION IN FIFTH GRADE.
GOD, IT'S ABSOLUTELY USELESS TO REMEMBER STUFF LIKE THIS.
I REMEMBER IT SO WELL.
TEN YEARS...
I WONDER WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING...
...ALL THIS TIME.

SORRY ...
I'M...
MUSIC
...GOING TO GO HOME.

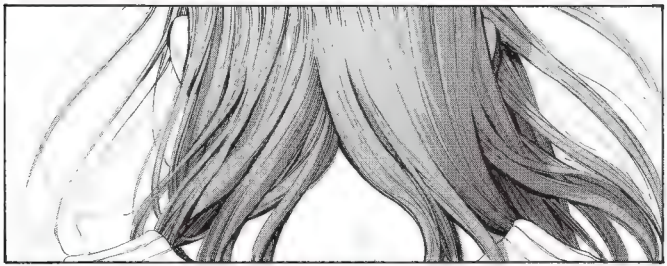

"Um...


"I'm Onodera.
"...not really Fujikawa...
"I'm,...

"No, that's insulting to seaweed.

"I'm just seaweed floating along half-assed every day, not happy or particularly sad...

"I'm not really a college student, I can't play futsal, I don't have a girlfriend...



"...which made me miserable as well as frustrated.

"But the Aiko I finally met was not the Aiko I remembered...

"For the last few years, obsessively.

"...I've been looking for you for ten years, Aiko.

"So I...

"...and turned me into a pathetic, useless human being.

"It's robbed me of my self-confidence...

"...there's regret for not keeping my promise to go to Kagoshima with you...

"At the bottom of my heart...

"That may be it.

"...for nothing ever working out for me.

"...maybe I've just been blaming you...

"...actually...

"No...

"I mean...

"...without me worrying about it.

"You're capable of having a happy life...

"But I've finally woken up.

"I'm glad I saw you.

POP!
"Thank you."
OH ...
...SO THAT'S IT.
THAT'S IT THEN.

I THOUGHT ...
...YOU WERE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULD NEVER LIE, PUNPUN...
...SO I'M SAD...
...THAT YOU LIED TO ME.
I PROMISED YOU, RIGHT?
IF YOU BETRAY ME AGAIN...
...I'LL KILL YOU.

Chapter 107

PEGASUS
PUNPUN
...

YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, HAVE YOU?

I PROMISED YOU...

...I'D KILL YOU.

BUT...
...I'LL FORGIVE YOU, ESPECIALLY THIS TIME.
I, TOO, A LOT TOO.
SORRY ...
I DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM.

...THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE ENJOYING LIFE.
IT'S NOT FAIR..
Oh...
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT THAT SMART, PUNPUN, SO YOU WERE PROBABLY TELLING PETTY LIES.
NAH...
Oh.
...
PUNPUN.
HEY...

THANK YOU...
...FOR WAITING FOR ME ALL THIS TIME.
REAL TATE AGE NT

I WAS...
... WAITING TOO.

SNACK
BAR
ISOJIMAN
HUH?

THAT'S LOW...
...SACHI.

IT'S YOUR OWN BUSINESS IF YOU HAVE AN ABORTION ...
...BUT TO SUCK SOMEONE ELSE INTO YOUR MESS...?
AND PUNPUN, OF ALL PEOPLE.

I UNDERSTAND THE VERY COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP YOU HAVE WITH PUNPUN...
...BUT FOR THAT REASON ESPECIALLY, DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE CONSIDERATE?
THERE'S MY SIDE OF THE STORY TOO...
NOPE, YOU'RE WRONG.
YOU'VE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF HIS INABILITY TO SAY NO.
OR WAIT...

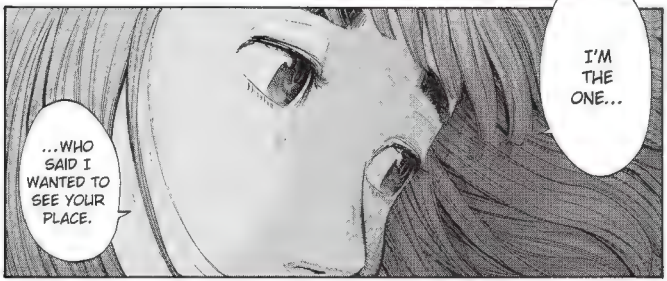
JUST BE HONEST FOR ONCE AND THINK ABOUT IT.
YOU MAY BE SMART, BUT YOU'RE ALSO REALLY GOOD AT LYING TO YOURSELF ABOUT YOUR TRUE FEELINGS.
ARE YOU TESTING HIM..
...BY DELIBERATELY ASKING FOR SOMETHING SELFISH?
IT'S BETTER..
...IF I DON'T RECOGNIZE MY TRUE FEELINGS.
I WAS LYING ABOUT BEING A MODEL.
I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY FRIENDS SINCE HIGH SCHOOL.
I BOUGHT THE CLOTHES AND SHOES BASED ON WHAT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE.
THE BOYFRIEND WAS A LIE TOO.

...LIE.
...IT'S ALL A BIG FAT...
SO...
THEY DISCOVERED ME ON THE STREET, AND I WAS A YOUNG STAR.
...THE PART ABOUT BEING AT A LITTLE TALENT AGENCY WAS TRUE.
BUT...

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO MAKE MONEY...
...AND I QUIT BECAUSE I COULDN'T FAKE ENJOYMENT.
BUT MY MOM WAS REALLY OPPOSED TO IT.
AND I WAS GETTING YELLED AT FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO SMILE ON CUE.
UNTIL THEN, I COULDN'T REALLY SMILE...
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
BUT...
...SINCE WE MET UP, I CAN SMILE FOR REAL AGAIN.
YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO TOUCH ME LIKE THE OTHER NIGHT.
THAT'S COOL.
NUH
UH
I DON'T KNOW EITHER...
...BUT I'M SURE THERE'S A REASON.

"...I know it was super smooth to get you up to my room..."

"Um...

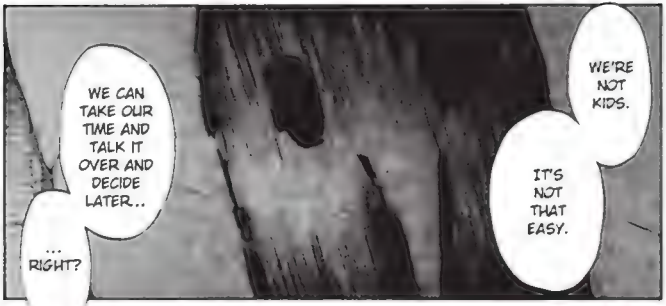


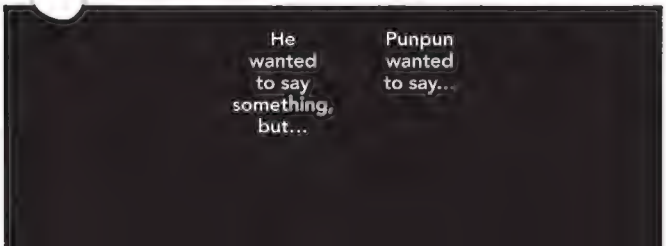
"...I'm not interested in going out with anyone."

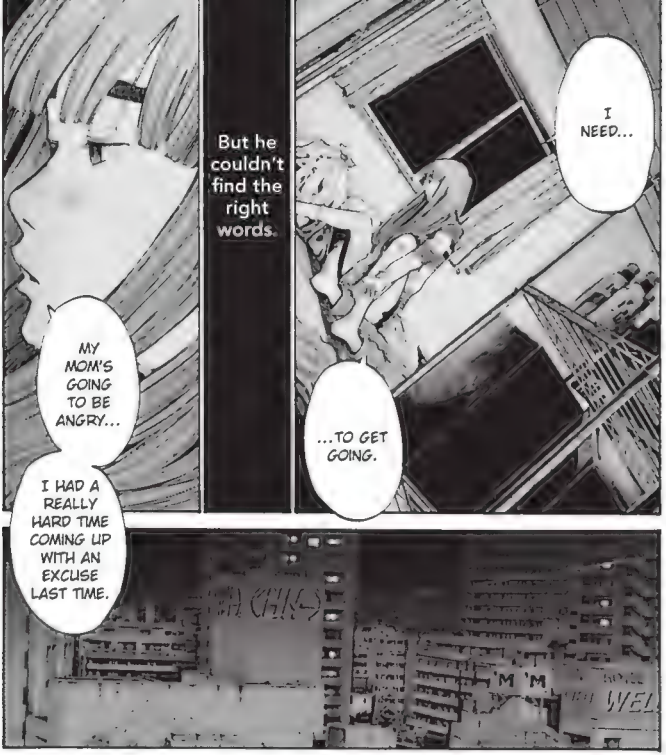
"...but right now...

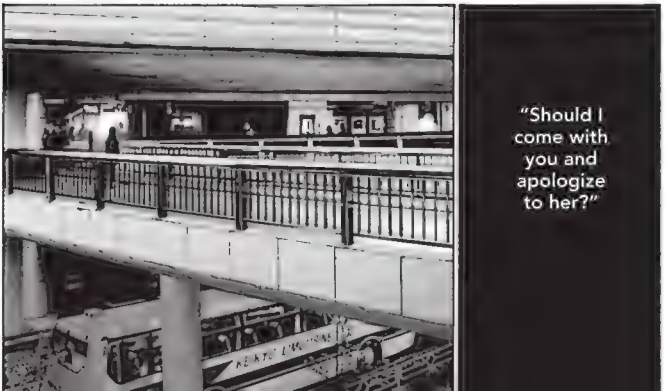
HEE HEE.
WAIT, WAIT JUST A MINUTE.

I DIDN'T...
...SAY ONE WORD ABOUT GOING OUT.


WE'RE NOT KIDS.
IT'S NOT THAT EASY.
WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME AND TALK IT OVER AND DECIDE LATER..
... RIGHT?


He wanted to say something, but...
Punpun wanted to say...

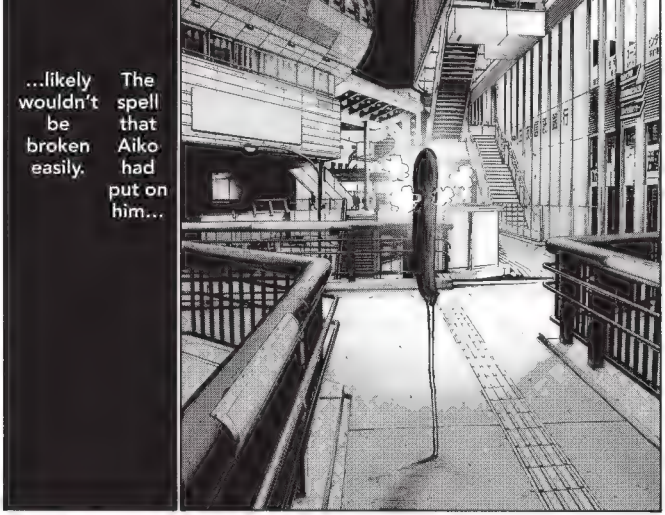

But he couldn't find the right words.
I NEED...
...TO GET GOING.
MY MOM'S GOING TO BE ANGRY...
I HAD A REALLY HARD TIME COMING UP WITH AN EXCUSE LAST TIME.


"Should I come with you and apologize to her?"

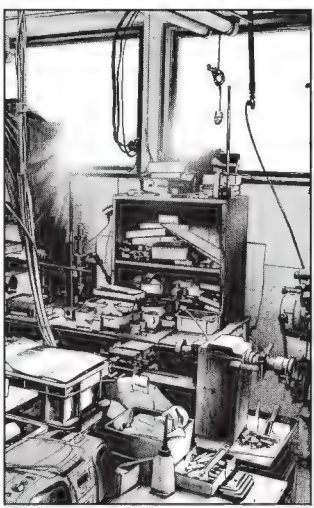
NO...
I'M FINE BY MYSELF TONIGHT.
PUNPUN...
...YOU'RE SO SWEET.
...A BIT.
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED

PUNPUN.
IS YOUR HEART POUNDING?

Punpun had a thought.
AIKO...
...IS REALLY POUNDING.
I'LL SEE YOU SOON.
... PUNPUN.


The spell that Aiko had put on him...
...likely wouldn't be broken easily.

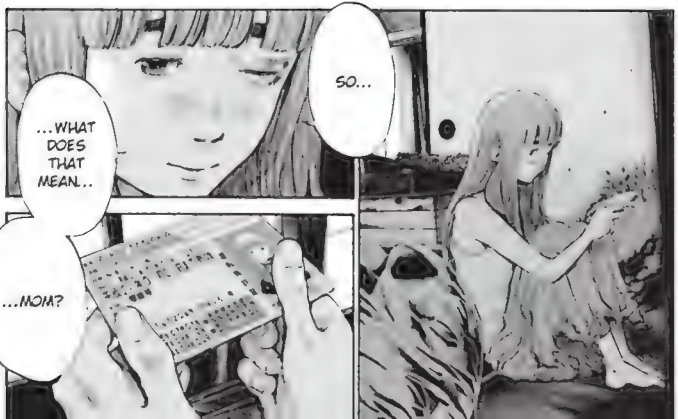
Everyone...
...is so selfish.



Chapter 108

AIKO...
HEY, AIKO!
LOOK AT THIS. LOOK!

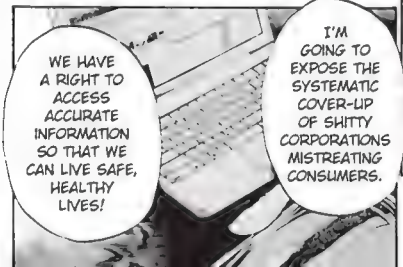
HAMBURGER A IS FULL OF PRESERVA-TIVES.
AND HAMBURGER B IS ALREADY TOTALLY MOLDY!


SO...
...WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...
...MOM?

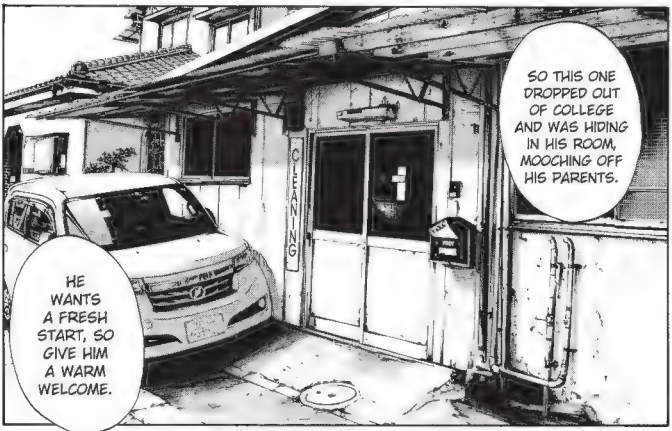
HUH?

SORRY, I'M STUPID.

DO I REALLY NEED TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU?

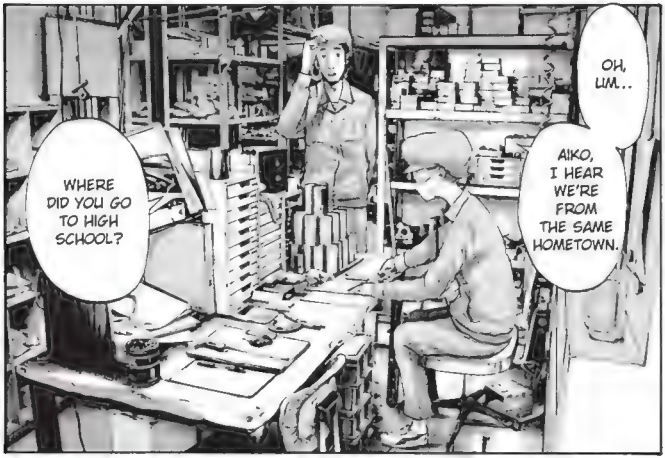

WE HAVE A RIGHT TO ACCESS ACCURATE INFORMATION SO THAT WE CAN LIVE SAFE, HEALTHY LIVES!
I'M GOING TO EXPOSE THE SYSTEMATIC COVER-UP OF SHITTY CORPORATIONS MISTREATING CONSUMERS.

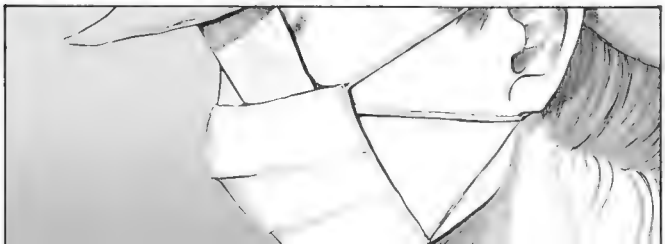
MOM, YOU DO THIS EVERY DAY...
...BUT DOES IT REALLY MEAN ANYTHING?
AIKO.
NO...
NEVER MIND...
I'M GOING TO WORK.


SO THIS ONE DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE AND WAS HIDING IN HIS ROOM, MOOCHING OFF HIS PARENTS.
CLEANING
HE WANTS A FRESH START, SO GIVE HIM A WARM WELCOME.

YOU CAN ASK THE CHIEF FOR ANYTHING ELSE.
OH, UH...
...THANK YOU.

A NEW GUY.
OH?


WHERE DID YOU GO TO HIGH SCHOOL?
AIKO, I HEAR WE'RE FROM THE SAME HOMETOWN.
OH, UM...

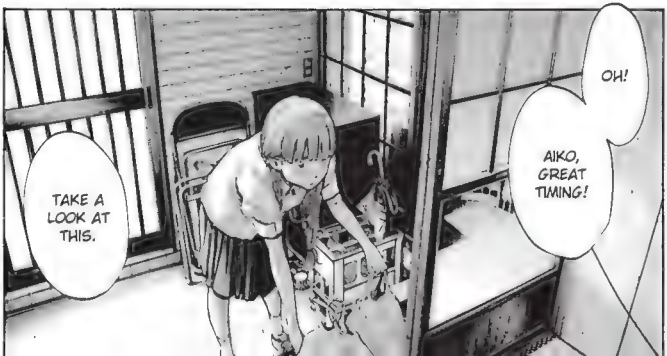


TC-218N
DON'T BOTHER ...
SHE NEVER RESPONDS, EVEN WHEN YOU TALK TO HER DIRECTLY.
SHE'S THE OWNER'S SISTER-IN-LAW'S SISTER'S DAUGHTER.
HER MOM REALLY PESTERED THE OWNER FOR CASH AND THEN COULDN'T WORK ANYMORE BECAUSE OF A BAD BACK.
SO SHE SENT AIKO HERE AS COLLAT-ERAL...
...AND NOW SHE'S WORKING FOR A RIDICULOUSLY LOW WAGE. I'M SURE SHE'S AN IDIOT TOO.
YEAH, SHE WAS DOING SOME KIND OF MODELING OR SOME-THING BEFORE...
JUST USELESS, THE PAIR OF THEM.
NO SEX APPEAL, NO CHARM...
SHE COULDN'T EVEN SLEEP HER WAY TO THE TOP.
UH, WAIT, CAN'T SHE HEAR YOU?
SHE WON'T SAY ANYTHING.
HEY, YOU.
HOW MANY DICKS HAVE YOU SUCKED?

WHOA...
WAIT...
THAT'S TAKING IT TOO FAR.
THAT'S A DISGUSTING THING TO SAY TO A WOMAN.
OH YEAH?
IT'S SEXUAL HARASS-MENT!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY EMPATHY?
SURE I DO, LOTS.
I CAN'T STAND BY AND WATCH THAT.
WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING, AIKO?

LEAVE ME ALONE.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS.
GOOD NEWS, MRS. TANAKA.

OUR LEADER HAS JETTISONED HIS PHYSICAL BODY AND BEEN RAISED TO THE SPIRIT RANKS...
WE'RE MOVING HEADQUARTERS TO THE NORTH WARD, AND MR. OOIKE WILL BECOME OUR PRESIDENT. WE'LL BE REBORN AS "COSMO HEALTH FOREST."
...SO NOW OUR HOUSEWIVES DIVISION WILL TAKE OVER RUNNING THE ORGANIZATION.
SMILES, HEALTH AND HARMONY ...
LET'S CONTINUE TO SPREAD OUR LEADER'S WORD AND PRAY FOR THE HAPPINESS OF ALL.


OH!
AIKO, GREAT TIMING!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

IT'S A BRONZE STATUE OF OUR LEADER.
IT'S SO AFFORD-ABLE.
CAN YOU ASK YOUR BOSS FOR AN ADVANCE?
HEE HEE, I HAVE TO GIVE THEM TO EVERY-ONE.
WELCOME HOME, AIKO...
ARE YOU DOING THE HEALTHY, HEALTHY EXERCISES EVERY DAY?
MOM...
...CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
HOW MANY OF THOSE DO YOU HAVE TO BUY...
...BEFORE YOU CAN WALK AGAIN?

I'VE...
...TRIED NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
BUT I REALLY DON'T WANT...
...THIS SHITTY LIFE.

I...
WHAT'S THE POINT OF ALL THIS?
...WANT A BETTER LIFE.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING.
PLEASE GO.
I'M SORRY, EVERY-ONE.
...HAVE YOU SEEN ANYONE LATELY?
AIKO...

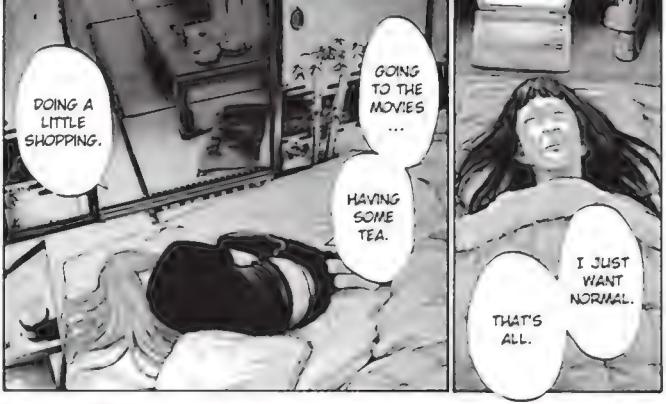
ALL RIGHT ...
...COME OVER HERE.

...994138, 912497, 217752, 834791.
520353, 018529, 689957, 736225...
...659361, 533818, 279682, 303019.
380952, 572010, 654858, 632788...

...I?
3...
NO MISTAKING THOSE GOOD VIBRATIONS.
ARE YOU AWAKE, BABY?
... DREAMING.
I WAS...
YOUR SLEEP TALKING WAS BEYOND BEAUTIFUL.
DID YOU SEE THE FUTURE AGAIN?
YOU WERE ASLEEP FOR ABOUT FIVE DAYS.

OH YEAH, THAT SCOOTER YOU WANTED ME TO LOOK FOR...
I FINALLY FOUND IT.
OUR PERFOR-MANCE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PERFECT.
...THE EARTH WILL BE SMASHED TO SMITHER-EENS...
ON JULY 7...
...AFTER ALL.
IT'S A BLACK MARK...
THE WORLD CAN BECOME MORE BEAUTIFUL!

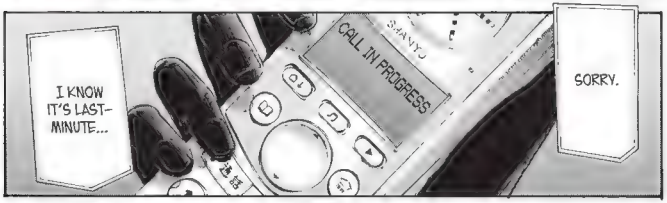
UHN ...
UHN ...
UHN ...
UHN ...
UHN ...
UHN ...
... UHN ...
UHN ...
... UHN ...
UHN ...
... UHN.
UHN ...


DOING A LITTLE SHOPPING.
GOING TO THE MOVIES ...
HAVING SOME TEA.
I JUST WANT NORMAL.
THAT'S ALL.

UHN...
UHN ...
... UHN.
UHN...

RRRRRR
RRRRRR

OH...
GOOD, YOU HAVEN'T LEFT YET.
YEAH, I'M ALREADY NEAR WHERE WE'RE MEETING.
I TOOK THE DAY OFF FROM WORK, SO I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.


SORRY.
CALL IN PROGRESS
I KNOW IT'S LAST-MINUTE...

...BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO COME.
YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO SWEET.
THERE WAS PROBABLY A TIME WHEN YOU WOULD'VE GOTTEN ANGRY.
I'LL COPE ON MY OWN.
"Um."

"You say that knowing I already feel like I need to come."
...JUST LEANING ON YOUR SWEET NATURE.
I WAS...
"First you tell me to come, then you tell me not to come. You're awfully selfish.

SO PLEASE, DON'T BE MAD AT ME RIGHT NOW...
I WAS COMPLETELY WRONG.
BUT...
...YOU REALLY DON'T NEED TO.

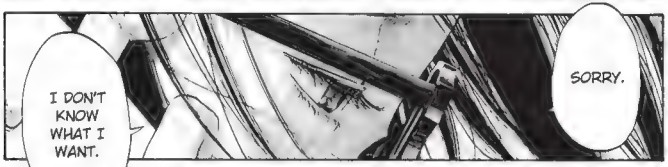
Nok
Nok

"...want to know what you really want to do!"
"I just...
"I'm not mad, and I don't care who's wrong...

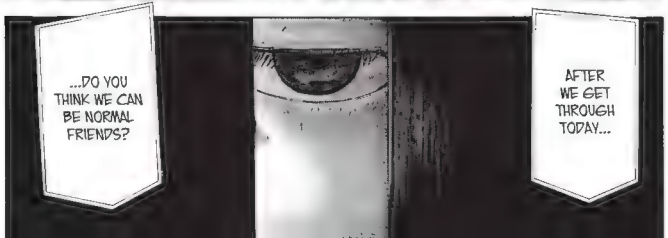
. ARE YOU THERE?
PUNPUN..

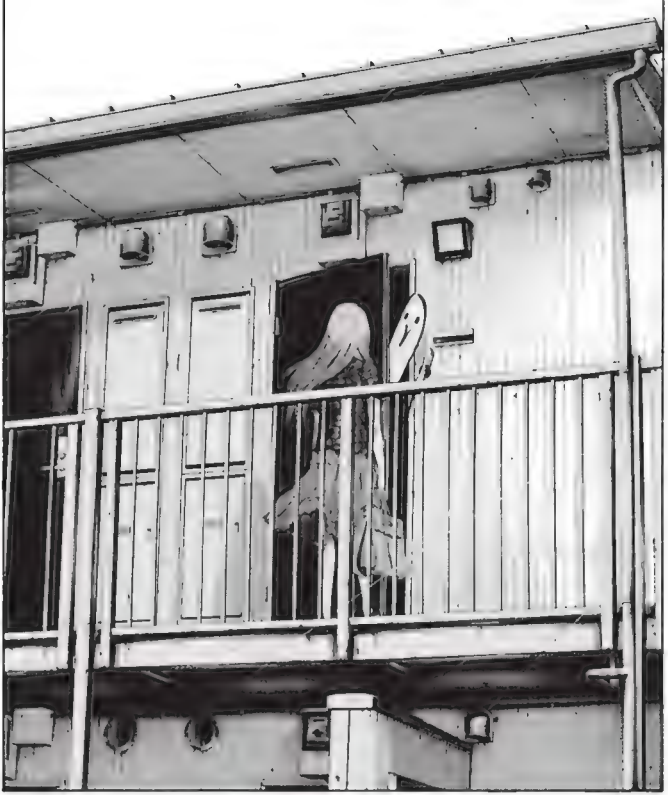
Chapter 109

PUNPUN...
...ARE YOU THERE?


SORRY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT.

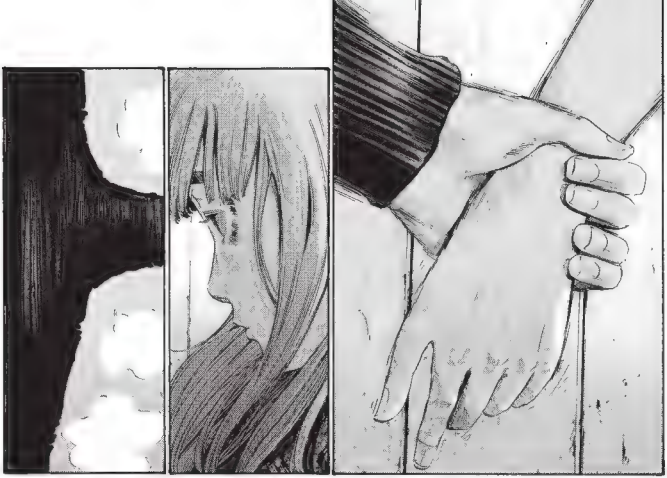
I'LL...
...LET YOU DECIDE.
I'LL BE AT THE BICYCLE LOT IN FRONT OF THE STATION ...
...AT THREE, LIKE WE AGREED.


AFTER WE GET THROUGH TODAY...
...DO YOU THINK WE CAN BE NORMAL FRIENDS?



SANYO
CALL IN PROGRESS
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.
PUNPUN ...

"Those bruises..."
IT'S NOTHING.
SORRY, WERE YOU ON THE PHONE?
"There's no way that's nothing."
I JUST STOPPED BY BECAUSE I WAS IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU...
I'LL GO.



"What is this?

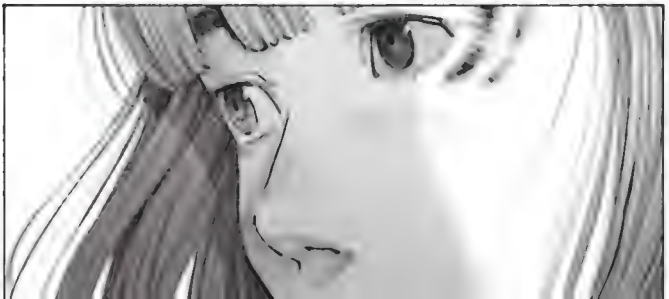
"I don't think I could even boil noodles.

"I feel so unsettled...

"...just come out and say it.

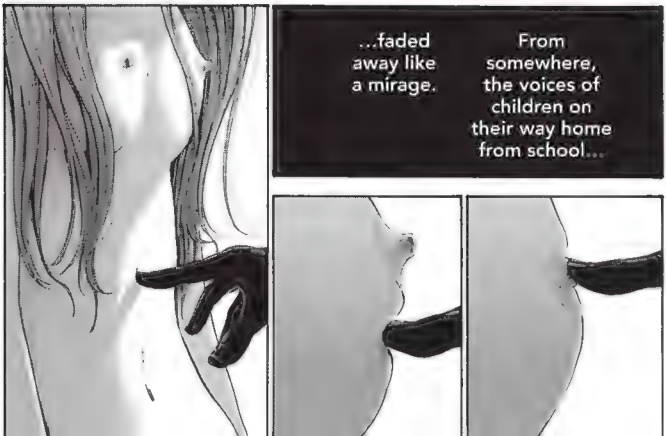
"If you have something to say...

"Just say it."
You too.
I want to have sex with you!



I WANTED TO SEE YOU...
THAT'S ALL.
ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
DO YOU HAVE TO HEAR IT TO UNDERSTAND?
In the soundless 100-square-foot room...

...heart-beats and sighs filled the air.


...faded away like a mirage.
From somewhere, the voices of children on their way home from school...

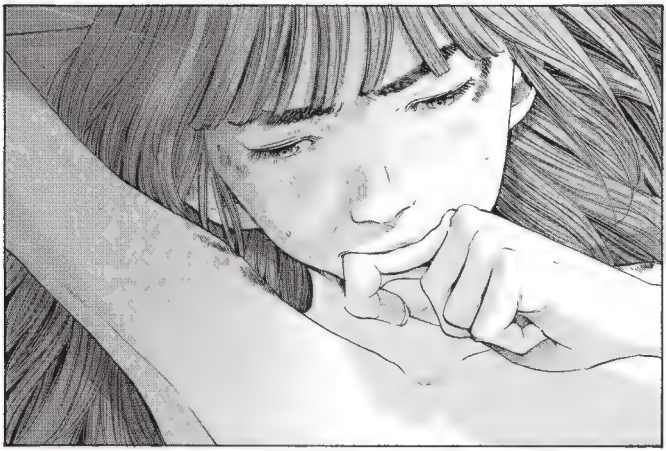
...there had never been a time when he'd had a connection with anyone.
Thinking back on his twenty years...
Never.

ああ
ああ
ああ
ああ
...

MMM.
MMM.
MMM.
OH.

...and screwing his raging cock into her with his right...

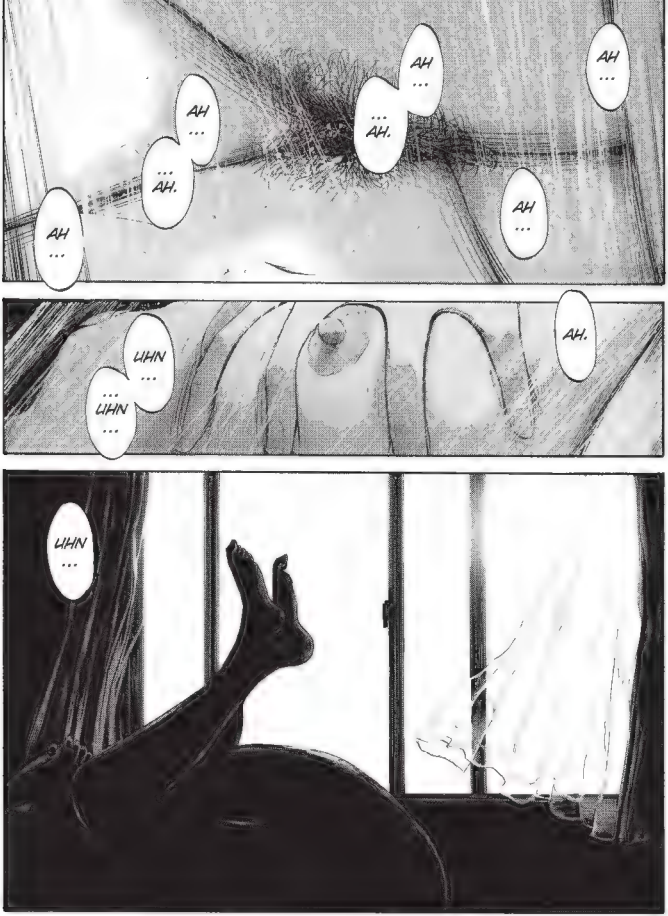
Holding her thigh down with his left hand...



...he was unable to stop stirring that red-hot vagina.

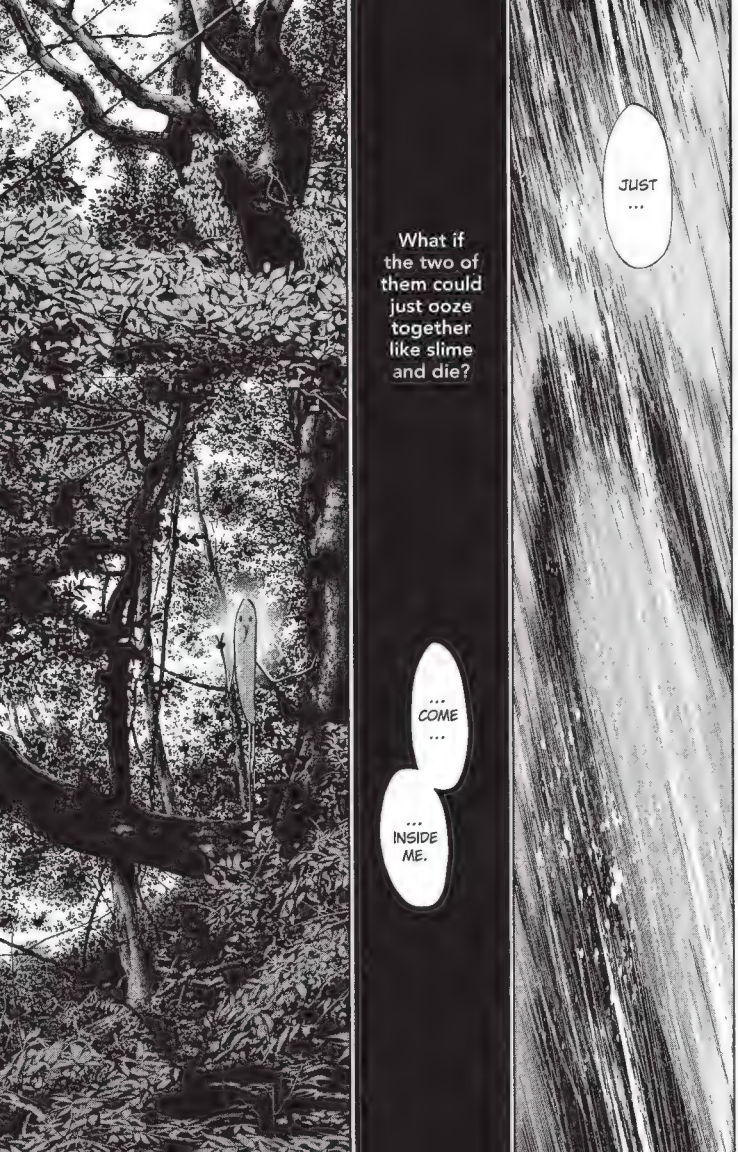
UHN...

UHN.



...surrendered to gravity and fell ever deeper into pleasure...

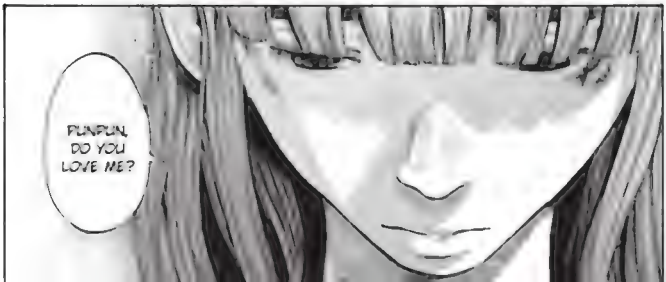
As Punpun thought that she was just like any other woman, disappointment and happiness formed a complex tangle...


JUST ...
What if the two of them could just ooze together like slime and die?
... COME ...
... INSIDE ME.

INIO ASANO

COWARD.

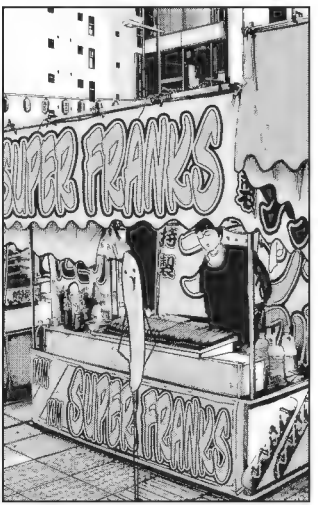
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?


PUNPUN, DO YOU LOVE ME?

"I love you."

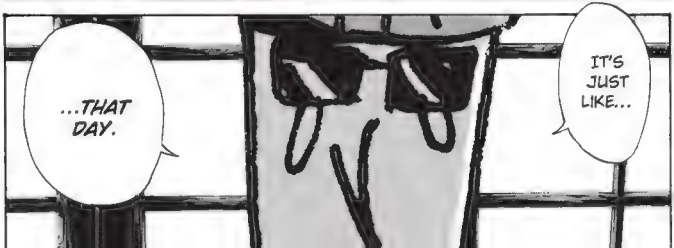
THEN...
...I love you too.

...was hell.
The only place lower to fall...


SUPER FRANKS
SUPER FRANKS

OH, YUICHI...
YOU'RE HOME EARLY.
DONE WITH YOUR WALK?
ONODER
MIDORI.

IT'S GOING TO RAIN.
OH, REALLY?
MY OLD WOUNDS ACHE.
WAIT, DO YOU EVEN HAVE OLD WOUNDS?

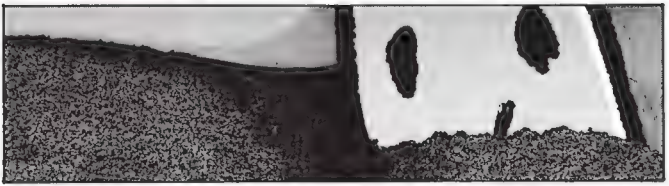

IT'S JUST LIKE...
...THAT DAY.

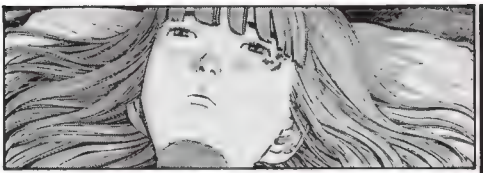
PUNPUN...
...I...
...WANT TO LEAVE HOME.

MY MOM HAS HAD A REALLY TOUGH LIFE...
...SO WHEN SHE COULDN'T WALK ANY-MORE, I THOUGHT I SHOULD TAKE CARE OF HER.
SO EVEN THOUGH SHE YELLED AT ME AND HIT ME EVERY DAY...
...I FIGURED THAT IF IT MADE HER FEEL BETTER, IT WAS OKAY.

...IS JUST STAYING IN THAT DARK HOUSE AND GETTING OLDER...
IF MY LIFE...
...THAT ISN'T GOOD FOR EITHER OF US?
...WHAT IF...
BUT I STARTED THINKING ...
...I THINK I'LL LOSE TRACK OF WHO I AM AND WHY I'M ALIVE.
...THEN IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE...
HELLO, OVER HERE.
HEY, SIS.

"Aiko, I was just thinking...
I REALLY DON'T LIKE GROUP DATES...
YOU WANT ME TO PRETEND TO BE YOUR COWORKER, RIGHT?
OH, AND OF COURSE I'M NOT MARRIED...
WITH THE POWER THAT COMES FROM HAVING LOST 10 AND GAINED 15, I'LL CUT THOSE GUYS IN TWO!





"I'm planning to move to a faraway city soon.

"I was planning to put my affairs in order before leaving...

"...but I don't need to do that.

"...and live together."
"Let's go somewhere far away...
"...but I don't mind if you stay here until then.
"I can't leave until I get my license ...
CAN WE REALLY?
"I wouldn't have said it if we couldn't."
I AM...
... BORED !!
GESUMI ...

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M SAYING, DO YOU? NEITHER DO I.
THIS GORGEOUS SUIT MAY BE RIDICULOUS FOR MY ABS, BUT...
...IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE SHREWDLY IN THIS ISOLATED SOCIETY, YOU HAVE TO SUGARCOAT IT AND NOT HIDE YOUR DICK.
SIGH...
I WANTED TO GO TO OKINAWA WITH SACHI.

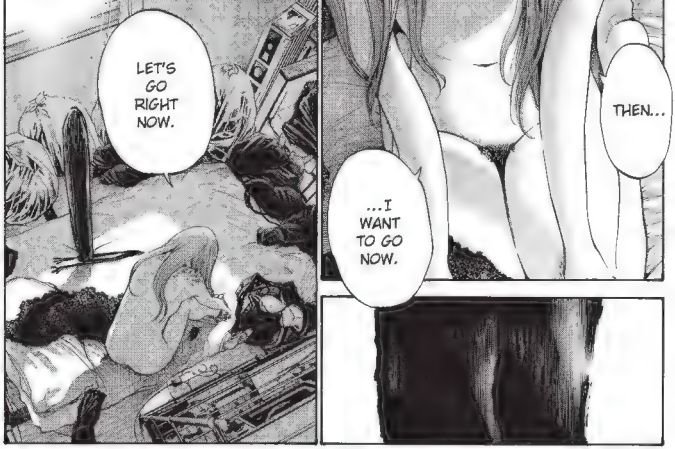
"...go tell your mom before you leave, okay?

"But...

"There isn't a mother alive who doesn't worry about her child.

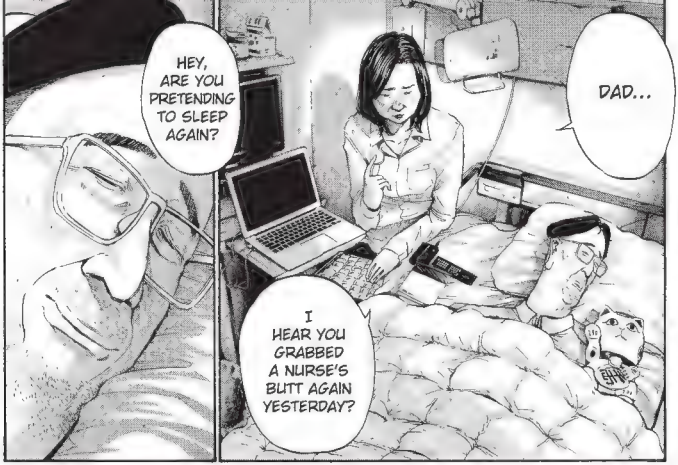
"... so just let me know when you feel like doing it."

"I'll go with you to convince her...



...I can't believe you.

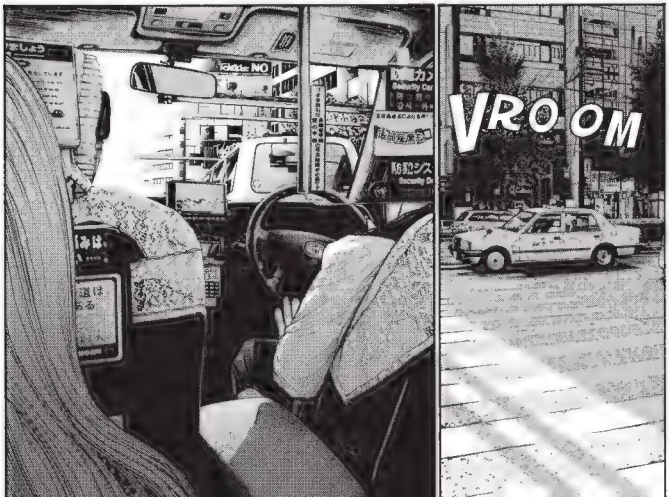
Aiko...



I think so too, and what you say is 100 percent correct.

...you're right. Let's go right now.

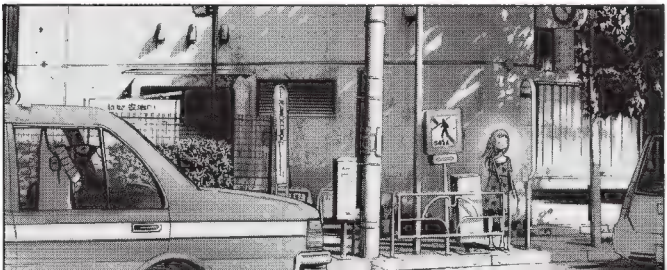
Yes...



The world is mine. Or more accurately...
Everything is in its right place.
This is good...
VROOOOOOM
...was always yours.
...my world...

...finally began moving.

Stalled time...



Punpun
was sure
of it.

Aiko was
"the one"
after all.

Ordinary life...

...was fading away.

...was disappearing into the quiet early dusk of 6:00 p.m.

Ordinary life, which would probably go on smoothly without him...

I DON'T HAVE...

...ANYONE BUT YOU, PUNPUN.

LET'S START OVER..

...JUST THE TWO OF US.

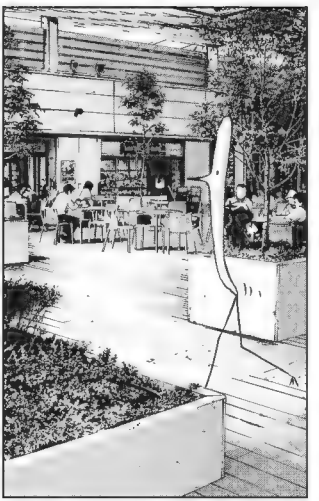
Don't look back.

...Punpun thought.

"I'll never let go of this hand again"...

Aiko's hand was soft, warm and little, just like it had been back then...

There's
no going
back.



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN INIO ASANO

Part Ten

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Yu Uehara
Takashi Fujikawa

HA HA AHA
HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW.

THE THIGH-LICKING VOLUME 6 WILL BE ON SALE JUNE 2017.

INIO ASANO, a bona fide earthling, was born in Ibaraki, Japan, in 1980. In 2001, his short story "Uchu kara Konnichiwa" (Hello from Outer Space) won the first Sunday GX Rookie Prize. Later, GX published his series *Subarashi Sekai*, available in English from VIZ Media as *What a Wonderful World!* His other works include *Hikari no Machi* (City of Light), *Nijigahara Holograph* and *Umibe no Onna no Ko* (A Girl on the Shore), as well as *solanin*, also available from VIZ Media.

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Volume 5
VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by INIO ASANO

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